神童

Shindo

Volume 3

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 23 THE BROKEN HEART SONG 3

CHAPTER 24 THE MICE SONG 21

CHAPTER 25 THE HANDS ON FIRE SONG 39

CHAPTER 26 THE MEDIOCRE SONG 57

CHAPTER 27 THE SAKURA SONG 75

CHAPTER 28 THE STRAY SONG 93

CHAPTER 29 THE KANON SONG 111

CHAPTER 30 THE HUMAN INSTRUMENT SONG 129

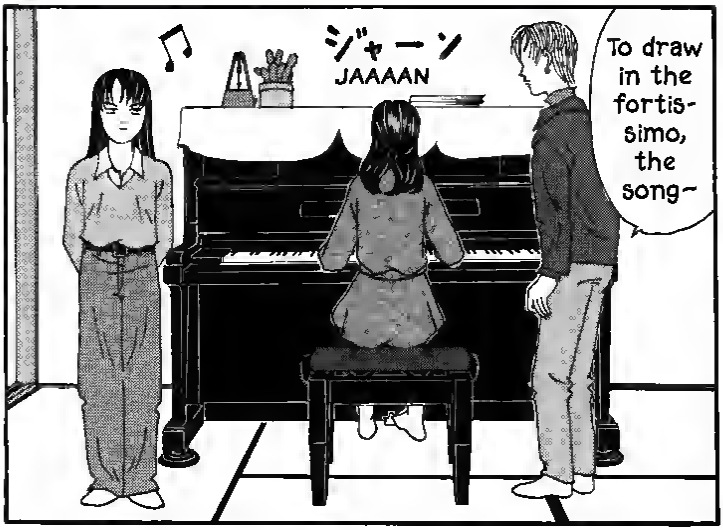
CHAPTER 31 THE FATHER SONG 147

CHAPTER 32 THE PERFECT SONG 165

CHAPTER 33 THE HIDE AND SEEK SONG 183

CHAPTER 34 THE PEARL SONG 201

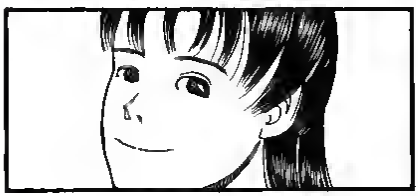
Chapter 23 The Broken Heart Song


ジャーン
JAAAAN
To draw in the fortis-simo, the song-

KIKUNA GROCERY

Move outta the way.
Wrong!

Waah.

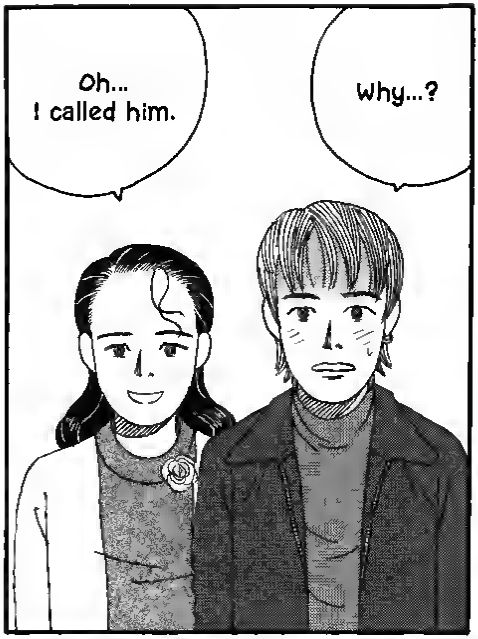


ジャアアン
JAAAN
YAMAHA

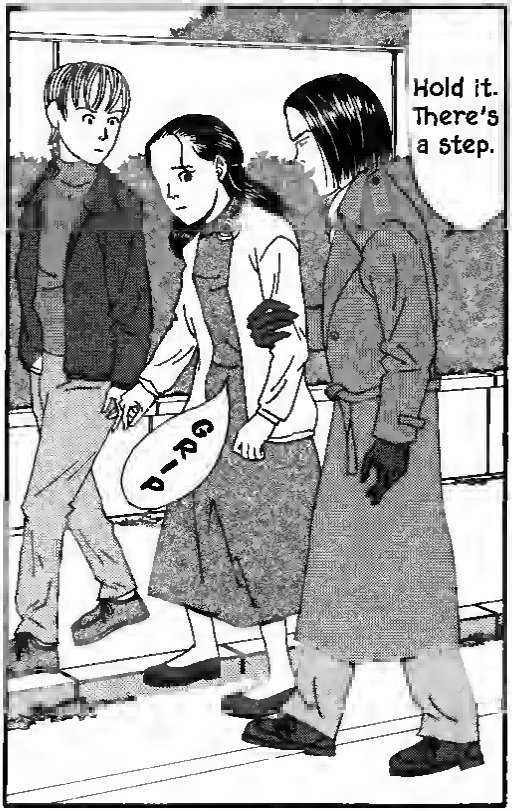
That's just like you. Unlike me, you pick things up fast.
That's it!
ベ BLEH
ジャン JAN
Like this?
Your piano playing was just like a sugarcoated cake!
I owe it all to you.
Thanks, Uta
Really?
...that I want to eat it!
So yummy ...

Finally! Another three days until the fated entrance exam!
Ahh...
You've already improved a lot.
I wonder if I can master what I learned from you in three days.
Sure, I guess.
Why don't you come play, too?
There's a send-off party going on at Professor Ayagi's tonight. Other people will be playing there.
No one's gonna wanna eat something so sweet!
Hmph! That kinda sickly-sweet cake...
See you later.
Then, we're going to the college preview.

School's not out until seven today.
It'll take... thirty-five minutes by train.
EIKO MUSIC COLLEGE
Hey.
The people who play wind instruments have probably already started.
Looks like we can't get in.

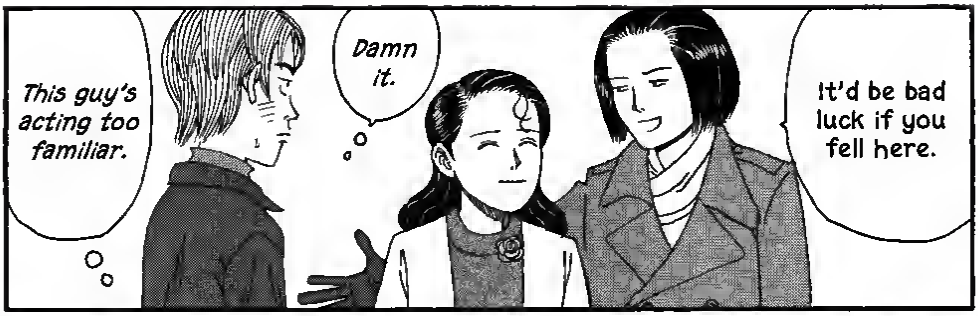

Oh...
I called him.
Why...?

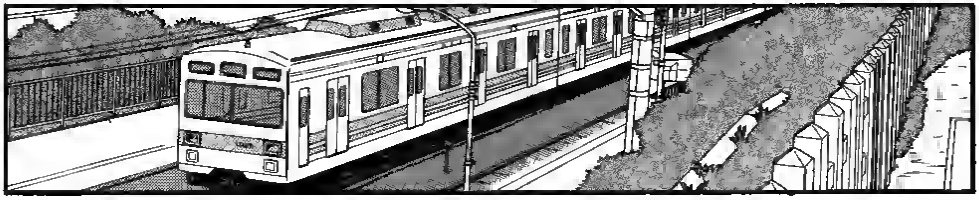
Hachi-
oji!

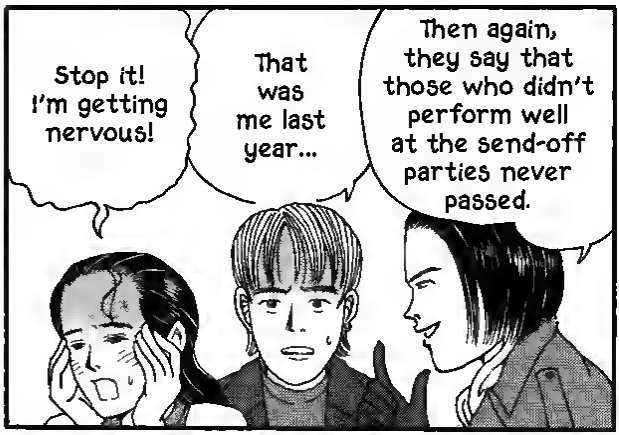

Hold it.
There's
a step.
P-R-G

Even if
it's me,
if I'm late
I'm out.

I've only
taken
it once!
You
should
know,
right?
Wao's
taken it
countless
times.

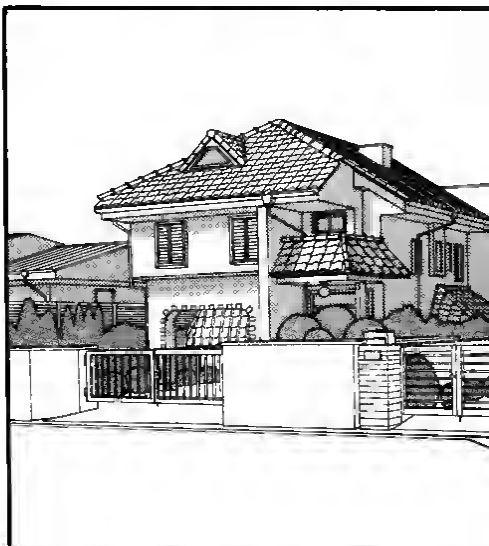

This guy's acting too familiar.
Damn it.
It'd be bad luck if you fell here.



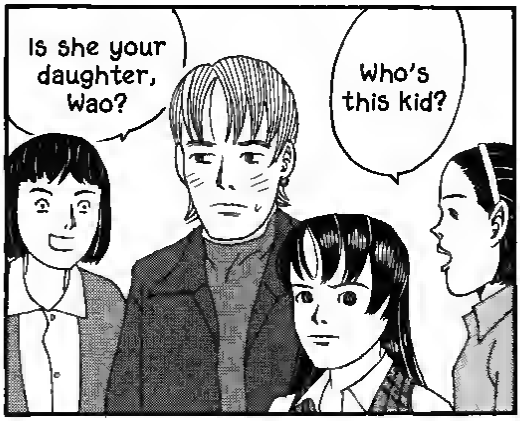

Stop it! I'm getting nervous!
That was me last year...
Then again, they say that those who didn't perform well at the send-off parties never passed.

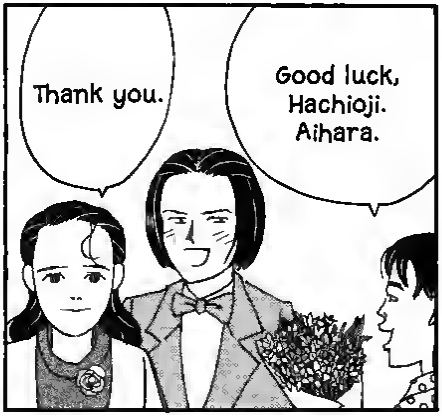
I'd rather practice at home than attend some send-off party.
What a pain.

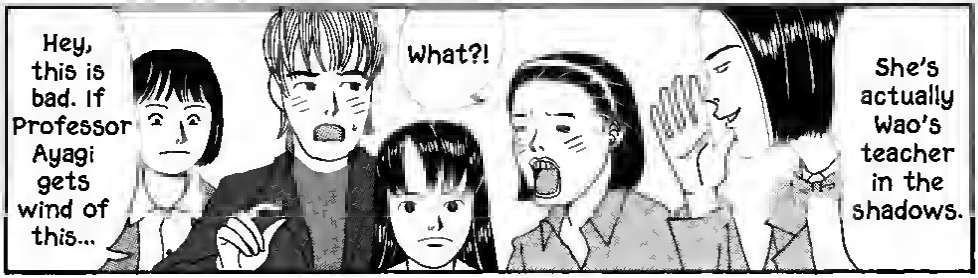
Has everyone arrived already?

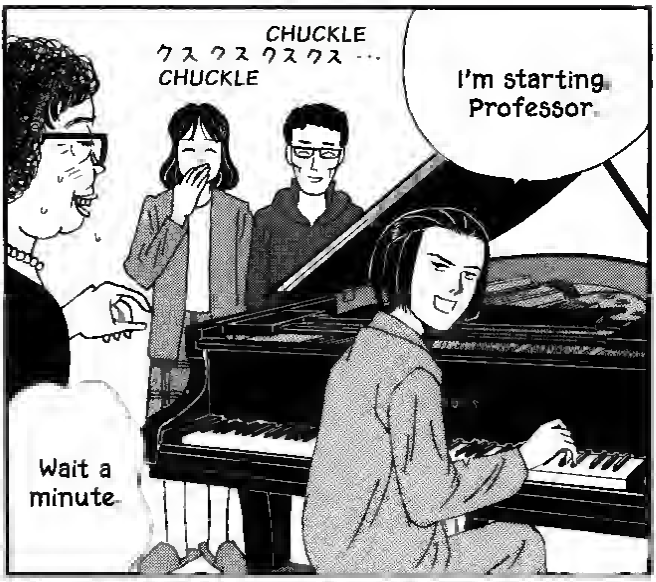


ワァア
WAAA
パチパチパチパチパチパチ……
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP


Is she your daughter, Wao?
Who's this kid?

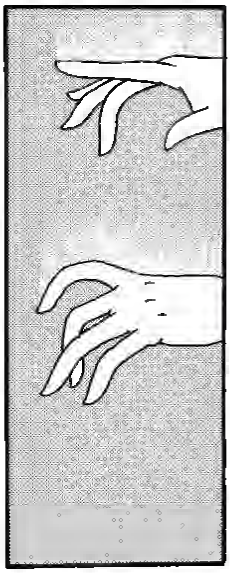

Thank you.
Good luck, Hachioji. Aihara.


Hey, this is bad. If Professor Ayagi gets wind of this...
What?!
She's actually Wao's teacher in the shadows.

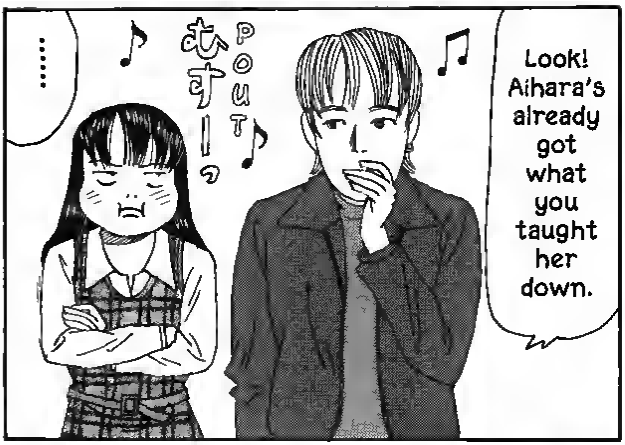

CHUCKLE
クスクスクスクス…
CHUCKLE
I'm starting, Professor.
Wait a minute.

ぴ〜ん
PING

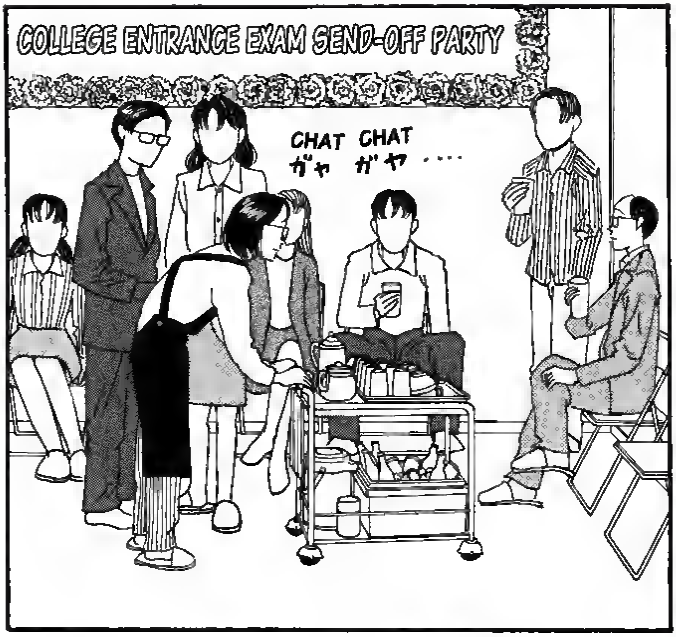
...and start the send-off party!
Well, then. Let's wish good luck to the examinees...



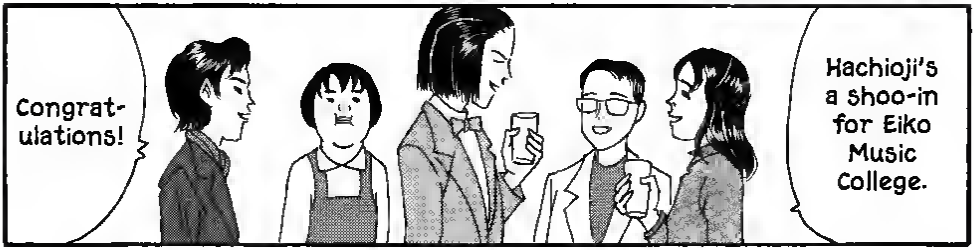
Wow! He's completely at ease.
He thinks he's so good.
He's a real moron like the emperor in new clothes.
ワーー WAAA
パチ パチ CLAP CLAP
パチパチパチ・・ CLAP CLAP CLAP


Look! Aihara's already got what you taught her down.
むすーっ
Pout
……

パチパチ CLAP CLAP
パチパチパチ CLAP CLAP CLAP
パチパチ CLAP CLAP

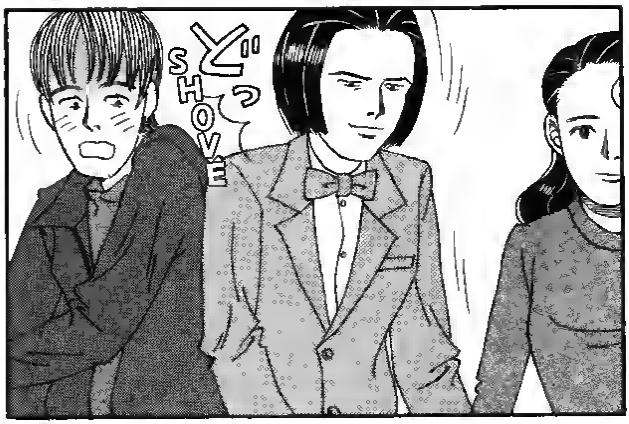

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM SEND-OFF PARTY
CHAT CHAT
ガヤ ガヤ ....

Let's decide on the remaining performers during the break.


Congrat-ulations!
Hachioji's a shoo-in for Eiko Music College.

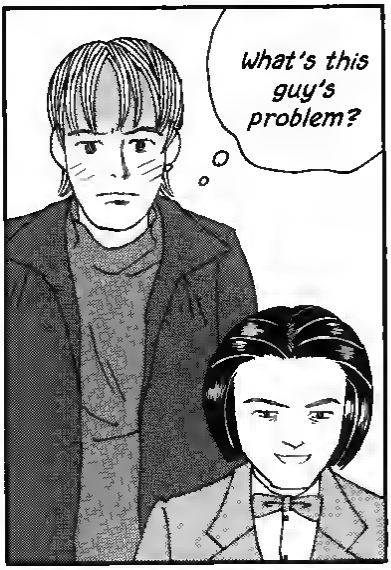
Let's play together.

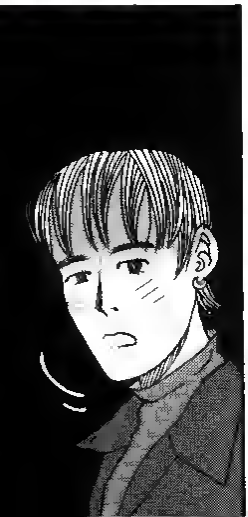
Hmph!

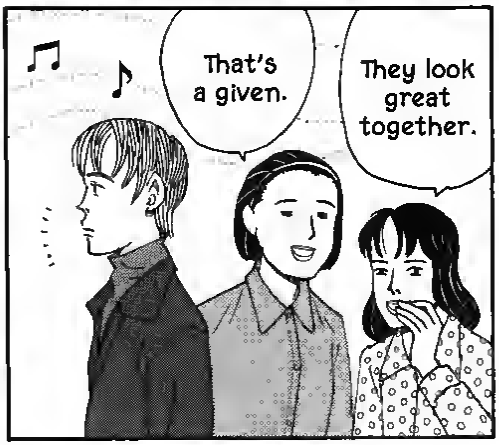

SHOVE

Ah... I...

Tch!

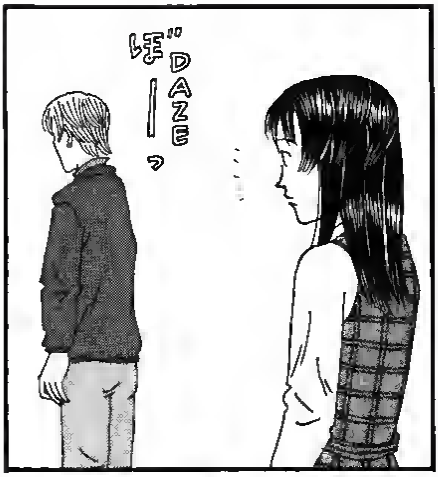

What's this guy's problem?



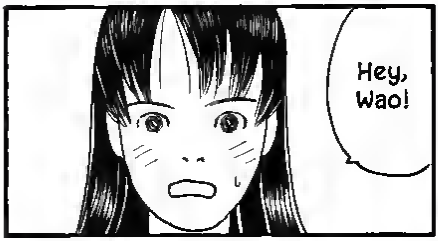

That's a given.
They look great together.

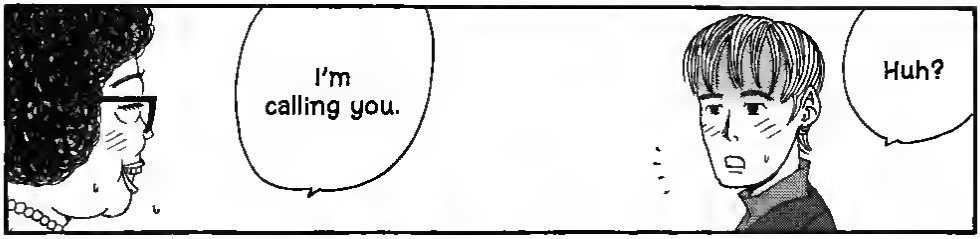
WHY...?
THEY SUIT EACH OTHER...
...DOES THAT KIND OF SOUND...?
WHY...

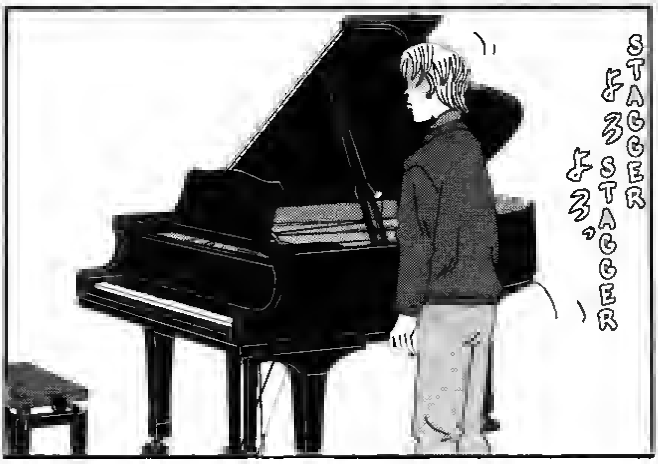
IT'S NOT THAT THEY GET ALONG WELL, IS IT?
PUSHING AND PULLING...
NESTLED TIGHTLY TOGETHER...
Those two are going out.
You didn't know?
Hey, Wao.
Huh?


LE" DAZE

DOESN'T THIS...
...TOTALLY MAKE ME A CLOWN?
Mr. Kikuna.


Hey, Wao!


I'm calling you.
Huh?

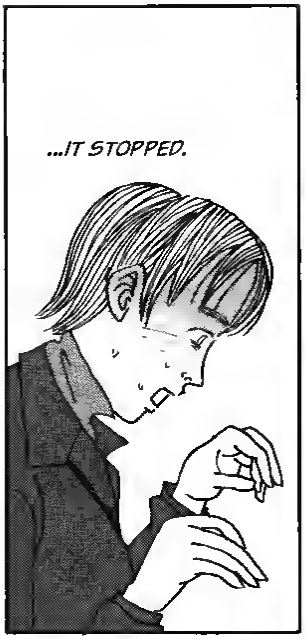

STAGGER
よろ STAGGER
よろ

Please start the second-half of the performance.

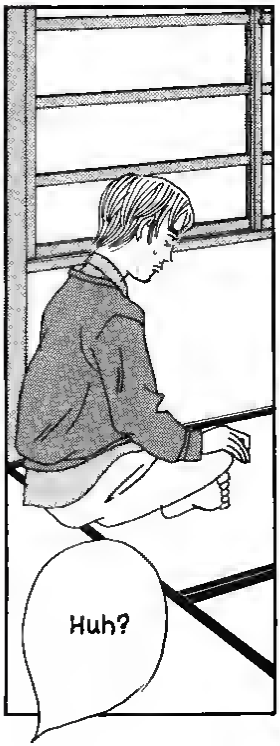
WHAT AM I PLAYING?
AH.. IT'S NO GOOD.
MUMBLE ザワザワ.....
MUMBLE
IT'S A TOTAL MESS.
Wao...

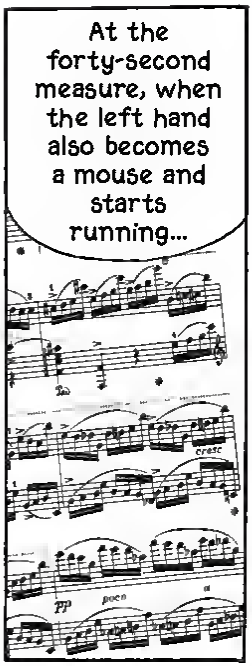
Chapter 23: The Broken-Heart Song • End

Chapter 24 The Mice Song

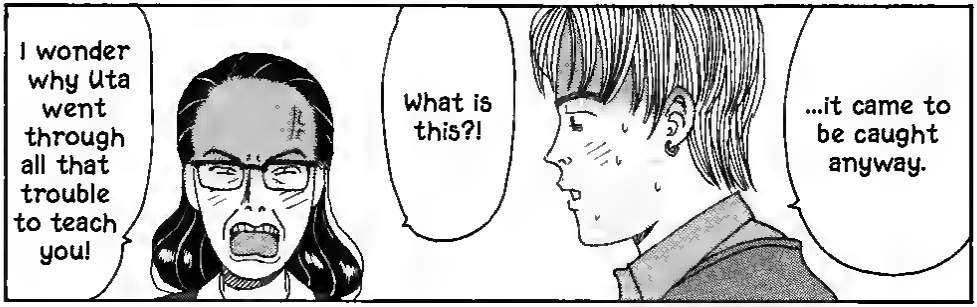


TOMORROW'S THE ENTRANCE EXAM.



Naturally.
That's because Uta taught you.
You sure look calm.
Not practicin'?
Though I was able to before...
I can't play.
Which one? Which one?
Chopin's Etude?
CHOPIN
ETUDY
Isn't this the one you stopped playin' at the send-off party?
Hey, this...

At the forty-second measure, when the left hand also becomes a mouse and starts running...

Allegro (♩= 88)
veloce
It's the one I call, "Circus."
Only the right hand moves around, like waltzing mice.
CHOPIN
DZIEŁA WSZYSTKIE

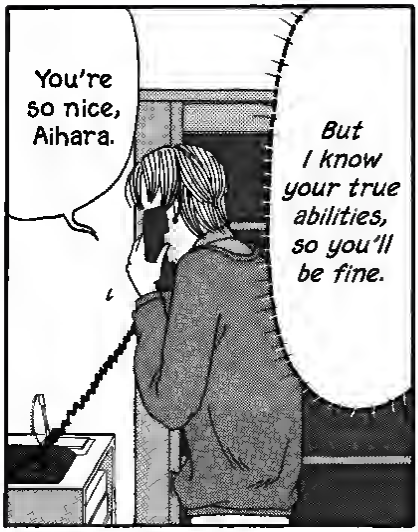

I wonder why Uta went through all that trouble to teach you!
What is this?!
...it came to be caught anyway.

BOOM
Did you get your heart broken or something?

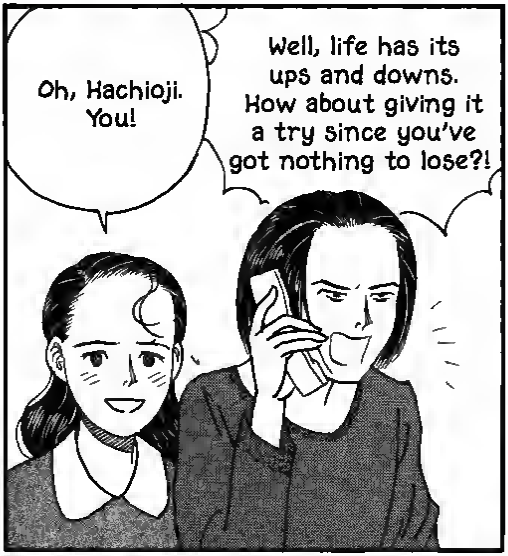
Hmm. Looks like he fell into a slump from mental shock.

I haven't slept since yesterday.
Yer face is really pale.
Oh, my. If you say such things, young women will look after you.
A broken heart?!
No way... That's stupid...
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
Ah. It turned red.
You've got a call from Miss Aihara!
ピクッ
ドクン
Aihara...
I wondered if you were all right.
What happened at the send-off party was bothering me.
Hey, it's me.
KIKUNA GROCERY

Hello?
Then, I'll pass the phone to Hachioji now.
Oh.
WHAT ?!


You're so nice, Aihara.
But I know your true abilities, so you'll be fine.

This guy's like a traffic light.
Ah. It turned green.
HOTTOP


Oh, Hachioji. You!
Well, life has its ups and downs. How about giving it a try since you've got nothing to lose?!

DOOM
'K?
Forget about Aihara.

You've got real ability.
Don't worry 'bout it.

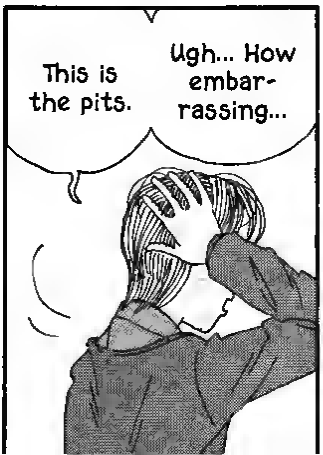
We came to encourage you, you know!
You don't wanna listen to your teacher's advice?
What the ...?

Go home! Please!
What?! How rude!

Uta?

...idiot! Retard!
Wao, you...

I CAN'T GET MYSELF BACK ON MY FEET.

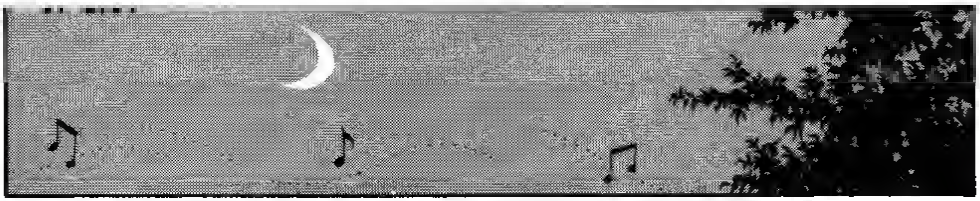

This is the pits.
Ugh... How embar-rassing...

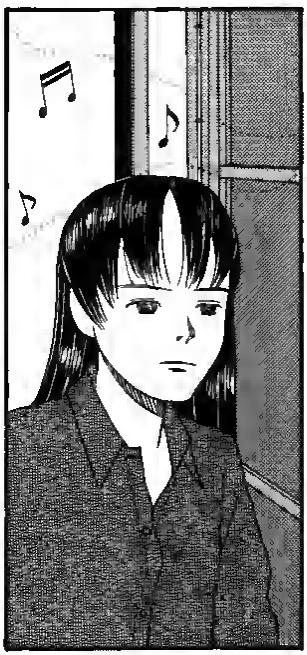
That brat, Uta. So she noticed, huh?

NO GOOD!
KIKUNA GROCERY
...NO USE!
THIS IS...
...DO-OR-DIE BATTLE!
THIS IS MY ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME...

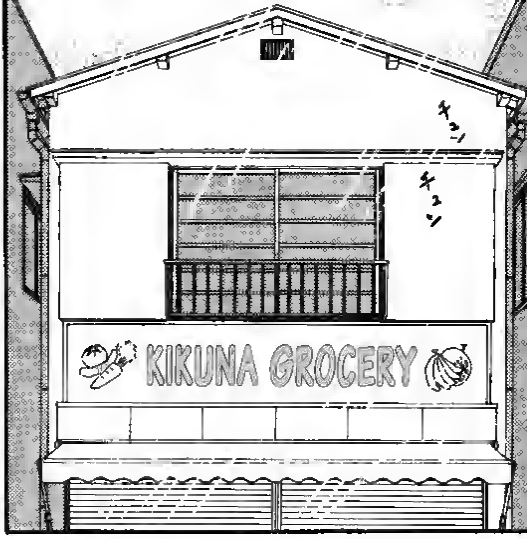
Tonight's a once-in-a-lifetime moment for him!

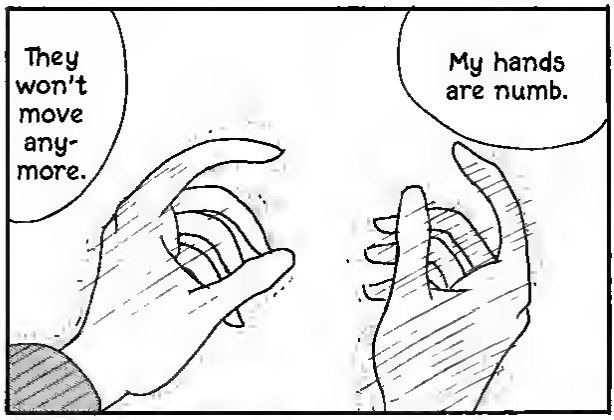
Deal with it!
Hey! What time do you think it is?
GROCERY





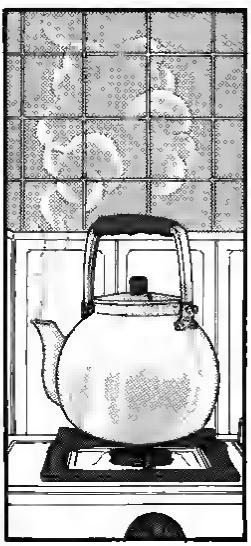
It's cold...
チュン CHIRP
チュン CHIRP
チュン CHIRP
チュン CHIRP

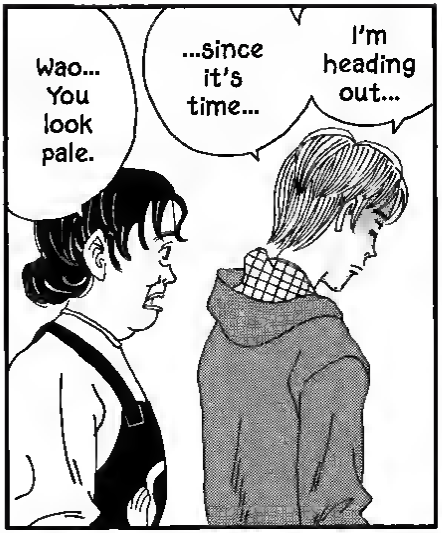

チュン
チュン
KIKUNA GROCERY

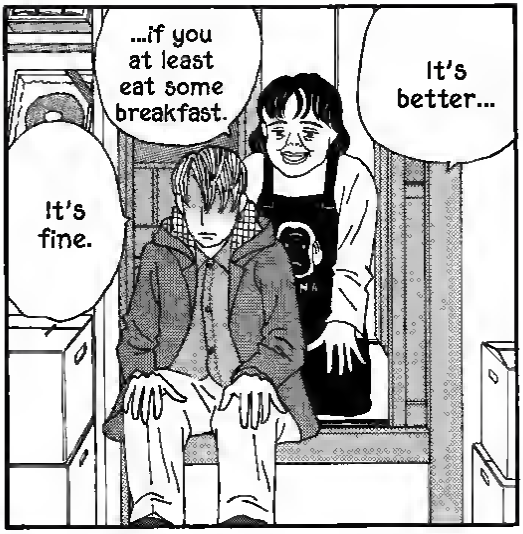

They won't move any-more.
My hands are numb.

My turn's coming up in three hours...

ドボドボ... GLUG GLUG




Wao... You look pale.
...since it's time...
I'm heading out...


It's fine.
...if you at least eat some breakfast.
It's better...

Pwip

EIKO MUSIC COLLEGE'S PRACTICAL EXAM FOR THE PIANO DEPARTMENT IS DIVIDED INTO GROUPS OF TEN PEOPLE.

EACH GROUP IS DESIGNATED A SCHOOL ATTENDANCE TIME.

IN ORDER FOR ALL THE PROFESSORS TO ASCERTAIN THE REAL ABILITIES OF EACH PERSON..

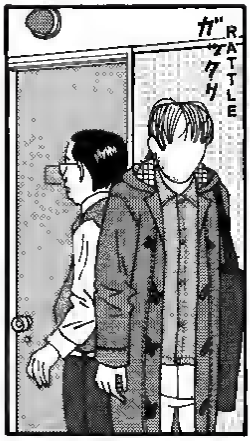
...CONSIDERATION IS PAID TO SHORTENING THE WAITING TIME.

FREEZING DAYS CONTINUE IN FEBRUARY AT THE TIME OF THE EXAM.

PIANISTS NEED TO DO CONSIDERABLE WARM UP BEFORE THEIR TURN.

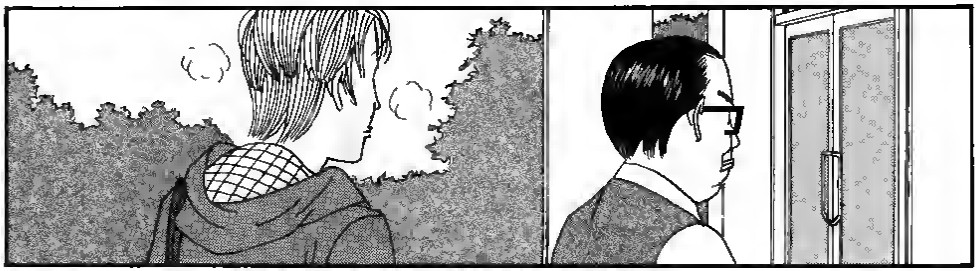
EIKO MUSIC COLLEGE

THEY LATER GATHER IN THE LOUNGE AND WAIT FOR THEIR TURN.
THE EXAM STUDENTS ARE EACH GUIDED TO A PRACTICE ROOM AND GIVEN THIRTY MINUTES TO WARM UP.
IT'LL GET CAUGHT AFTER ALL. THAT RIGHT HAND MOUSE..
...my fingers aren't warming up one bit...
Damn! These thirty minutes are crucial, but...
One more time...
It's time.
One more time!

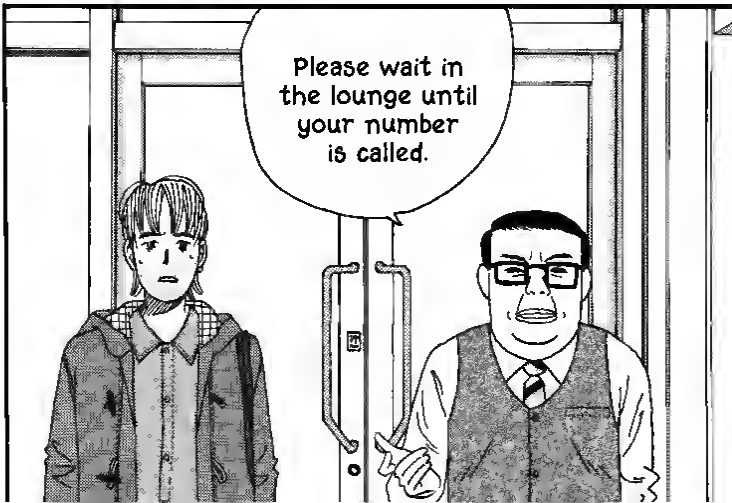

ガックリ
RATTLE

コツコツ
TMP TMP

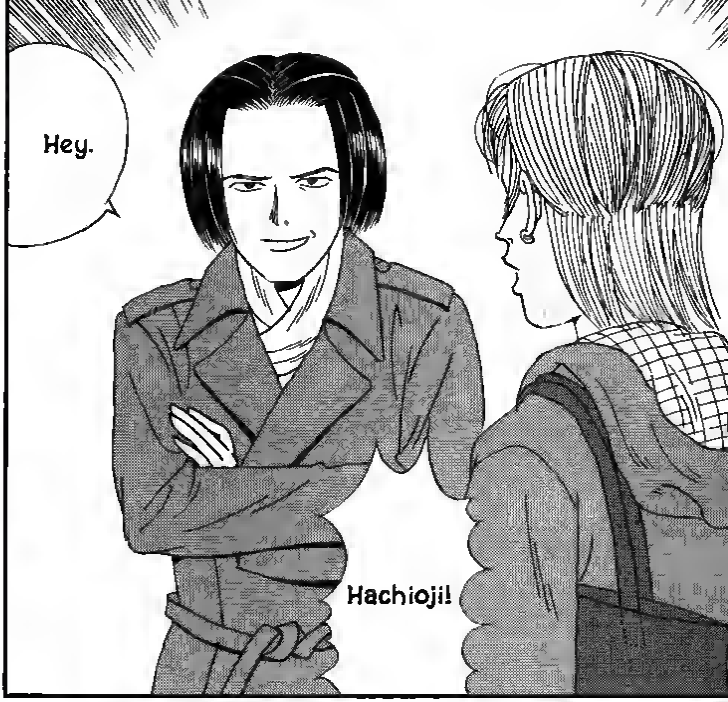
Time's up!

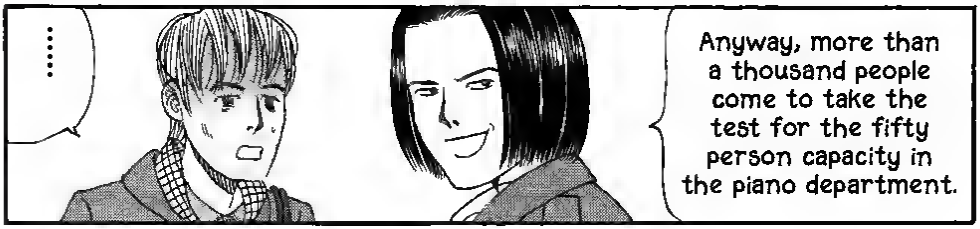


Ah...


Please wait in the lounge until your number is called.

I feel a bit relieved.
To think I'm in the same group as you.

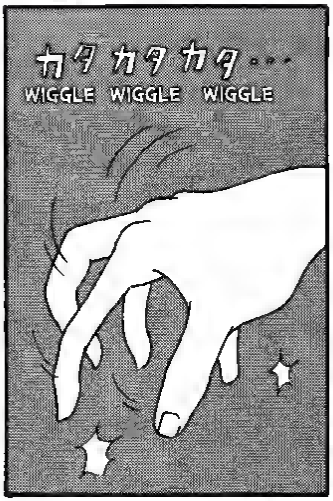

Hey.
Hachioji!

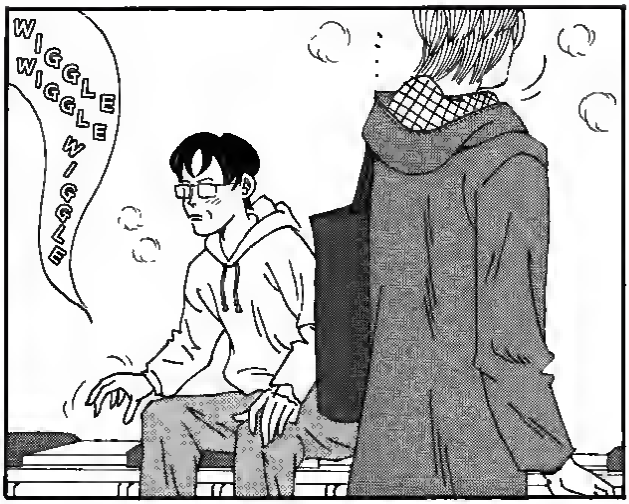

.....
Anyway, more than a thousand people come to take the test for the fifty person capacity in the piano department.

Grrr!

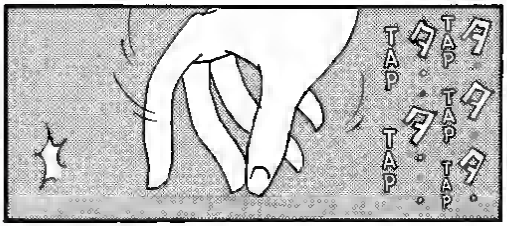
I'll kick you down and become that *one person*.

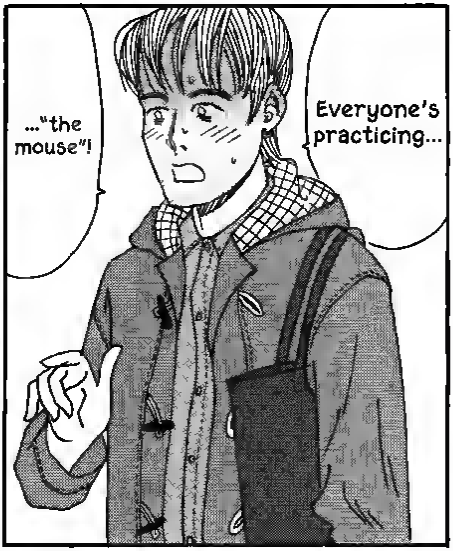
To put it another way, among this group, there might be one person or none at all who can enter Eiko!


カタカタカタ…
WIGGLE WIGGLE WIGGLE

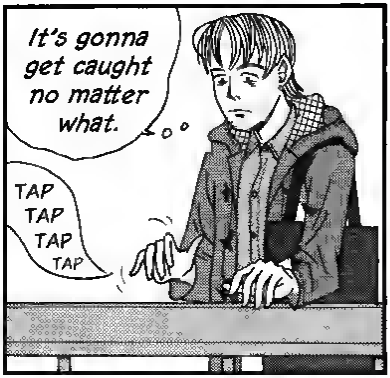

WIGGLE WIGGLE WIGGLE

I DROPPED THE TEMPO A BIT, BUT I'VE GOTTA OVERCOME IT.


タ タ タ タ タ タ タ タ
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP


…"the mouse"!
Everyone's practicing…

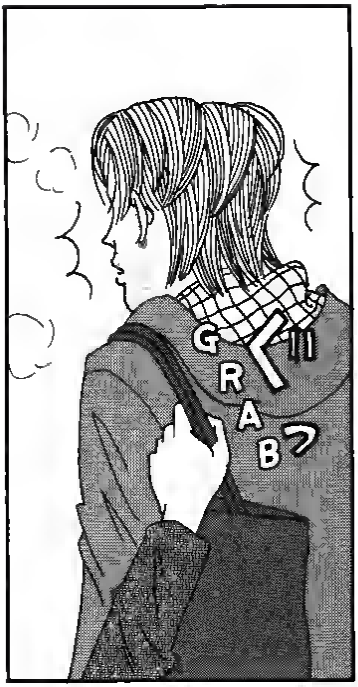
…カタカタカタ
TAP TAP
カタ
TAP
カタカタカタ…
TAP TAP
タカタ カタカタカタカタ
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
カタカタ…
TAP TAP
TAP

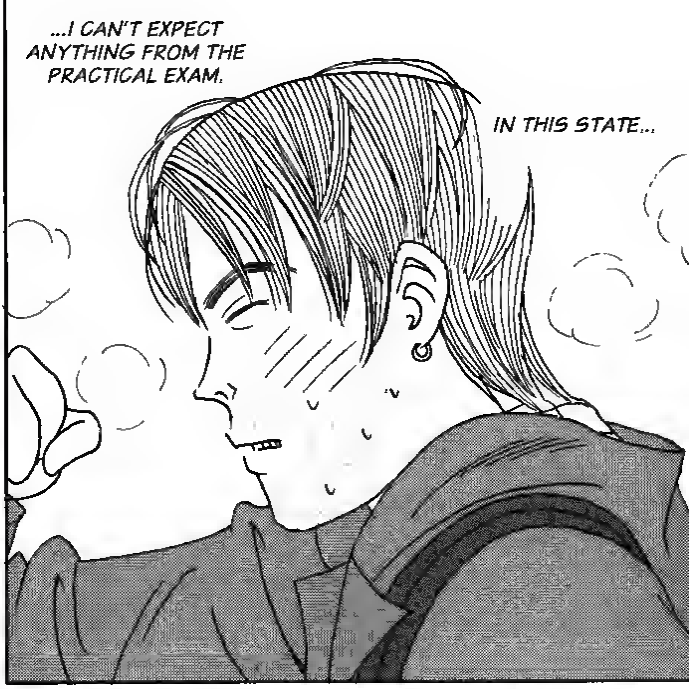

It's gonna get caught no matter what.
TAP TAP TAP TAP

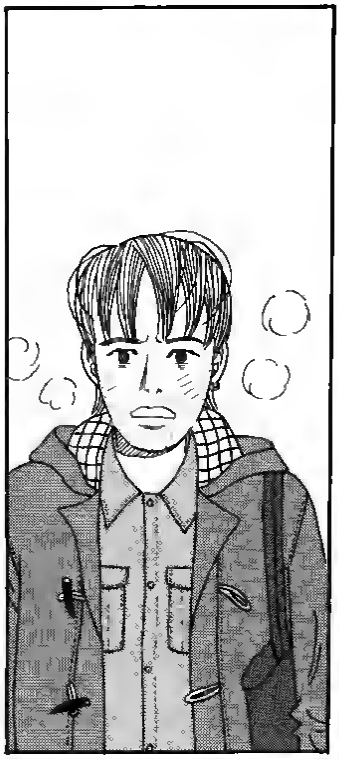
カタカタカタ・・・
TAP TAP TAP
カタカタカタ・・・
TAP TAP TAP
カタカタカタ・・・
TAP TAP TAP
カタカタカタ・・・
TAP TAP TAP
カタカタ
TAP TAP
カタカタ
TAP TAP
カタカタ
TAP TAP
TAP TAP
IT'S NO USE!
カタ
TAP
カタ
TAP
カタ
TAP
カタ
TAP
カタ
TAP

AACK
GRAB
I'M FINISHED!
Uta...
...you really came out!
Just when I thought you weren't gonna come out...

Chapter 25 The Hands on Fire Song


G
R
A
B


...I CAN'T EXPECT ANYTHING FROM THE PRACTICAL EXAM.
IN THIS STATE...



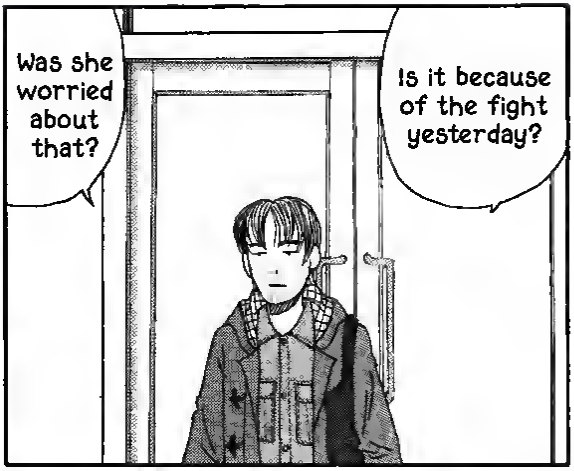
...you really came out!
Just when I thought you weren't gonna come out...

I'm here to tease you!
To a place like this?
What did you come here for...?
Here.
むっ
Grrr...
HUH?
SWIP
すっ

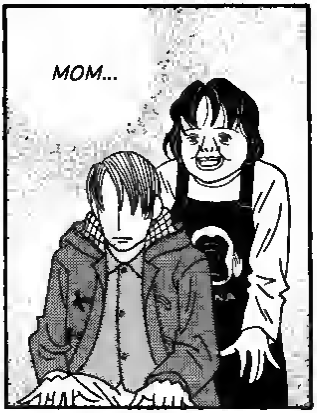
SWEAT
?!

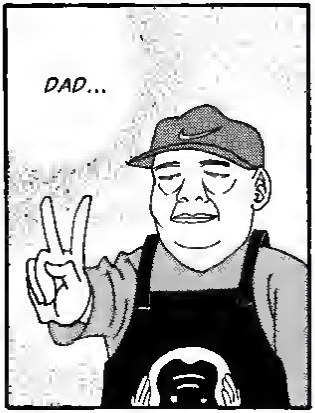
They're cold!
Hey.
The practical exam's gonna start.
What did she come here for?
I'm having some trouble since my fingers are numb.
Yeah.
Why did I come out here...?

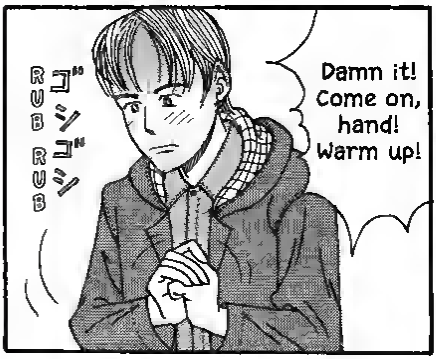
UTA...


Was she worried about that?
Is it because of the fight yesterday?

I can't betray everyone's feelings.


MOM...

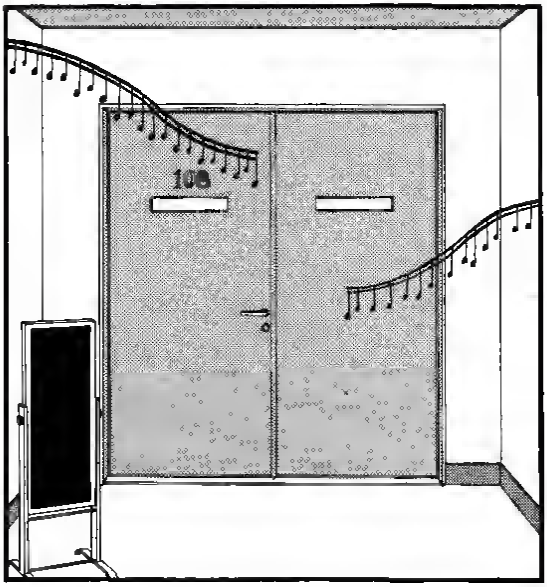

DAD...

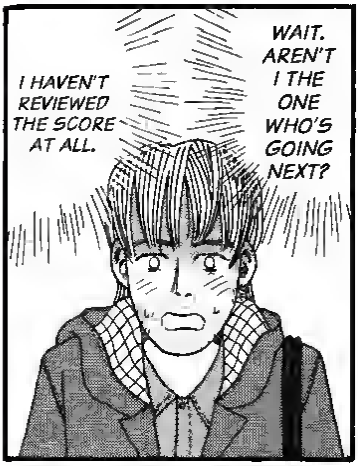

ゴシゴシ
RUB RUB
Damn it! Come on, hand! Warm up!

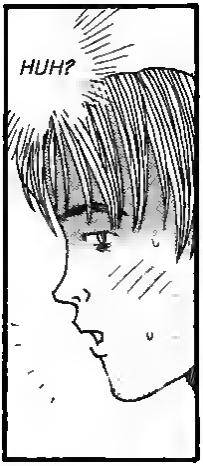
Hm? That sound...

EVEN IF IT'S JUST ONE PERCENT, AS LONG AS THERE'S SOME POSSIBILITY...

EVERYONE'S SCARED.
WHAT VOLUME AND SPEED...

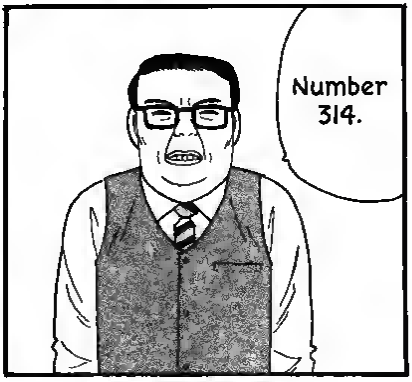

108

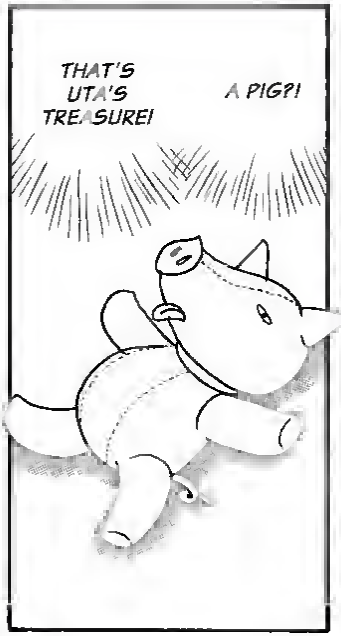

I HAVEN'T REVIEWED THE SCORE AT ALL.
WAIT. AREN'T I THE ONE WHO'S GOING NEXT?


HUH?

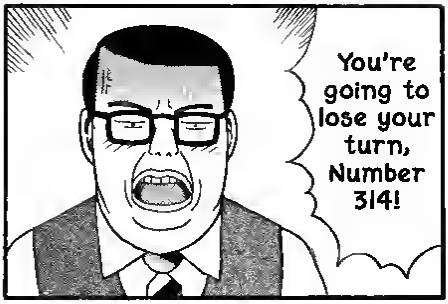
OF ALL THINGS, TO BE AFTER THAT GUY IS...
THAT'S HACHIOJI'S PLAYING.

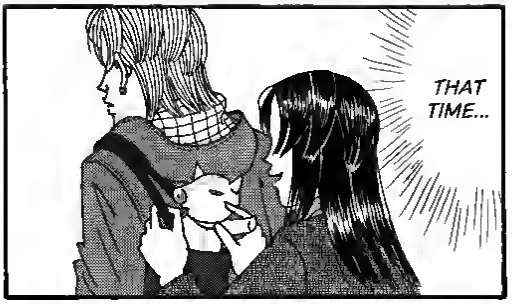
HOW STUPID! I'M GETTING STAGE FRIGHT!
YIKES! WHAT WAS THE FIRST SOUND TO PLAY?

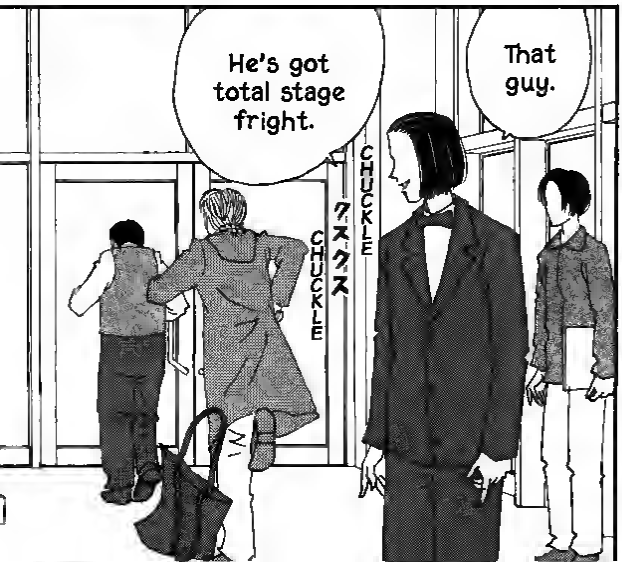

Number 314.


THAT'S UTA'S TREASURE!
A PIG?!

Huh?
CHOPIN
DZIEŁA WSZYSTKIE
REDAKCJA PADEREWSKI

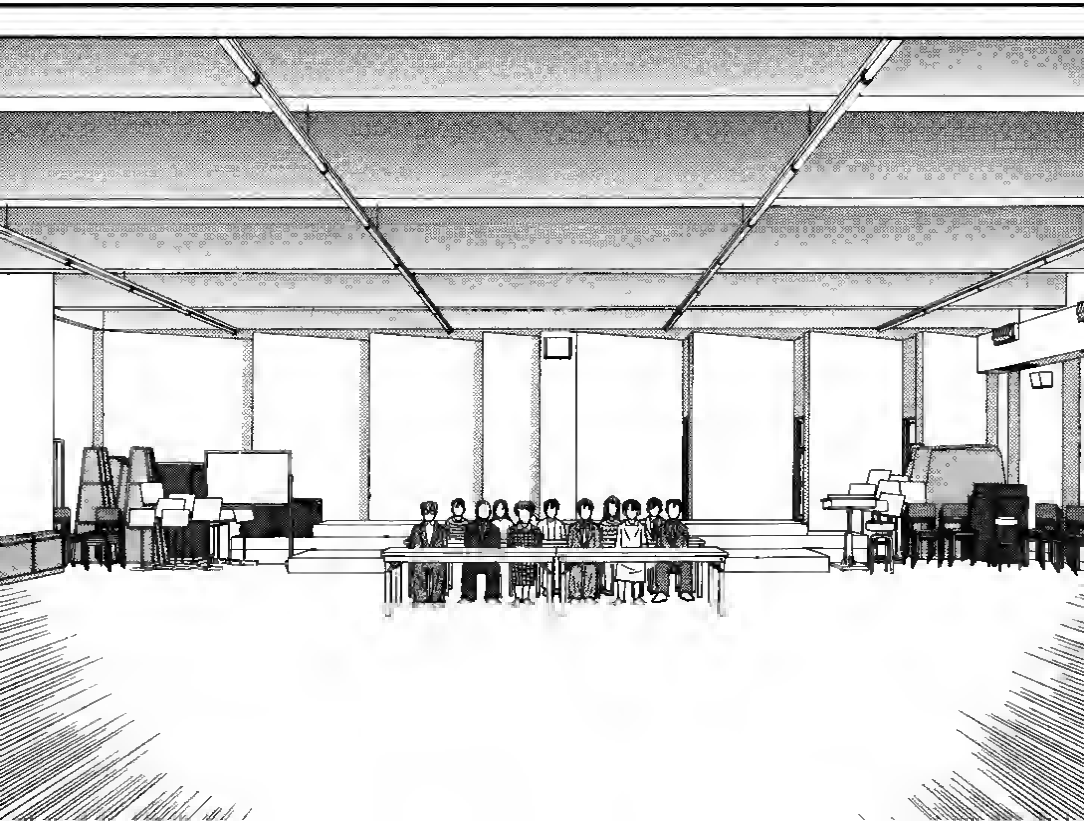

You're going to lose your turn, Number 314!

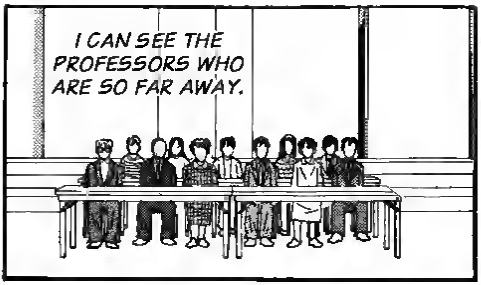

THAT TIME...

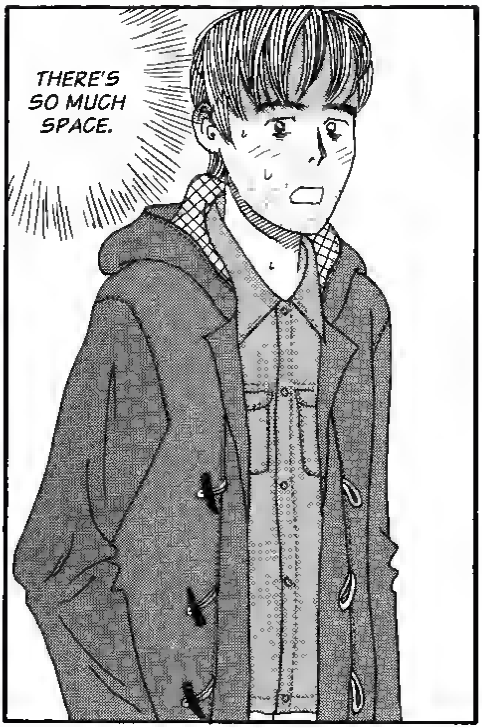

He's got total stage fright.
That guy.
CHUCKLE
クスクス
CHUCKLE

Y-
Yes!

よろよろよろ
WOBBLE WOBBLE WOBBLE



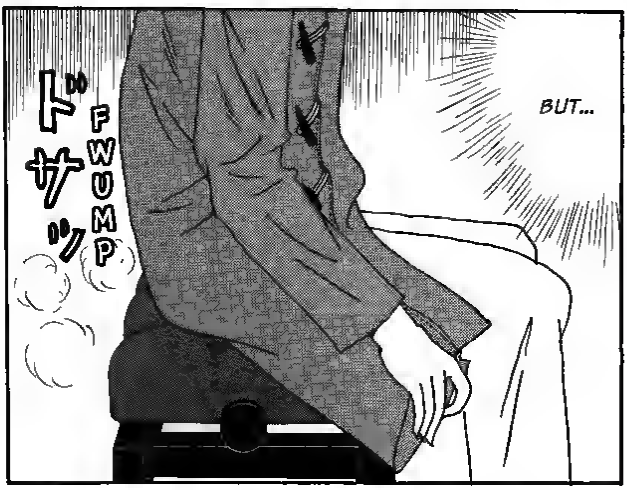

I CAN SEE THE PROFESSORS WHO ARE SO FAR AWAY.


THERE'S SO MUCH SPACE.

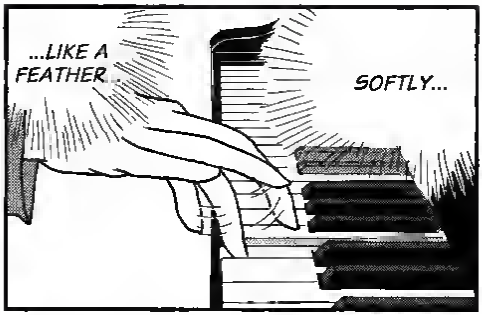
TH-THUMP
ドクン ドクン
TH-THUMP
I'M GETTING NERVOUS.

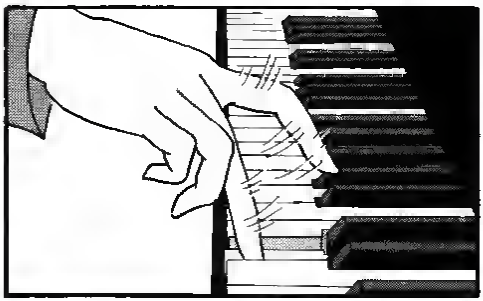
MY HANDS FEEL LIKE ICE.

I'VE GOTTA HURRY UP AND PLAY!
I'VE GOTTA PLAY!

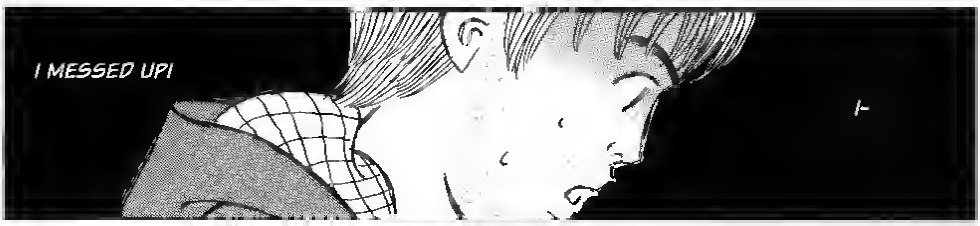

BUT...
ドサッ
FWUMP

OH!
What is that?
Wait!
Please begin. Chopin's *Etude Opus 10 Number 8.*
Time is ticking. Let's allow it.
This is an entrance examination.
This isn't a game.

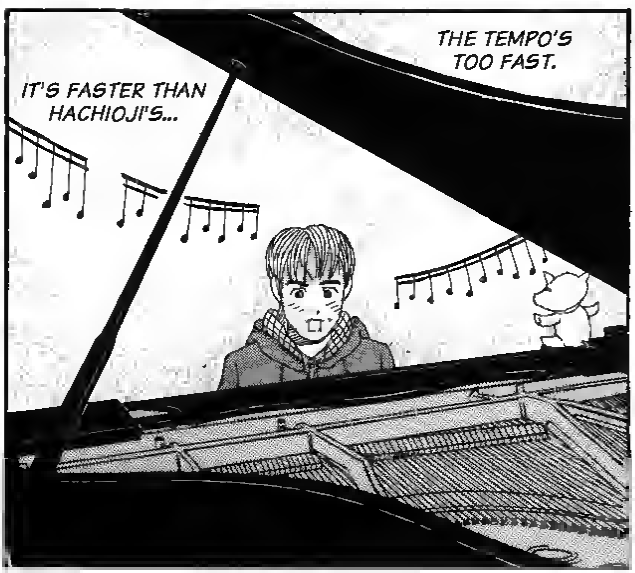

...LIKE A FEATHER
SOFTLY...



Allegro (♩= 88)
THE FIRST TRILL...

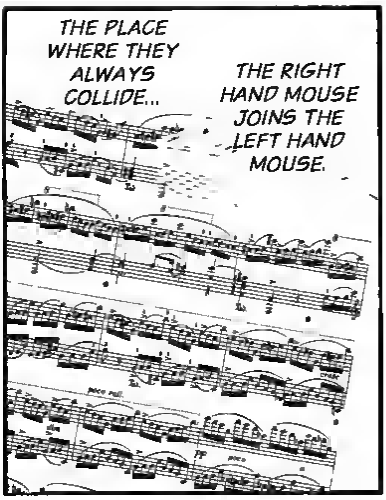

I MESSED UP!

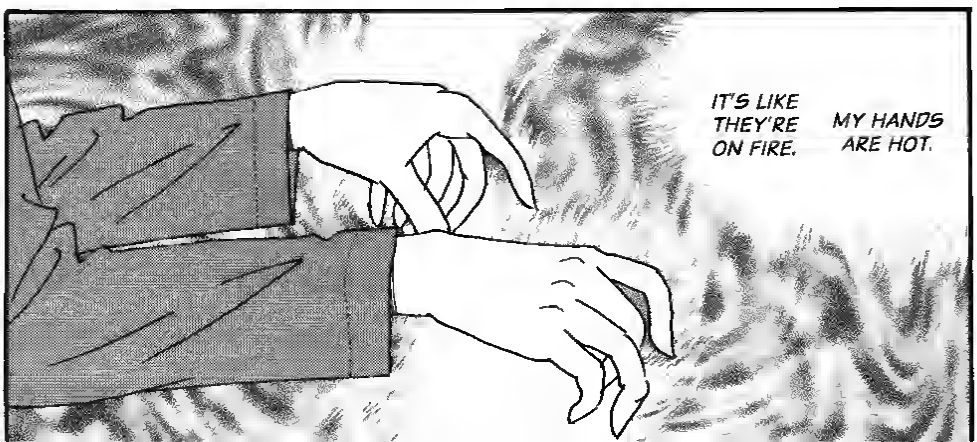
!


IT'S FASTER THAN HACHIOJI'S...
THE TEMPO'S TOO FAST.

HANDS LIGHT AS A FEATHER...

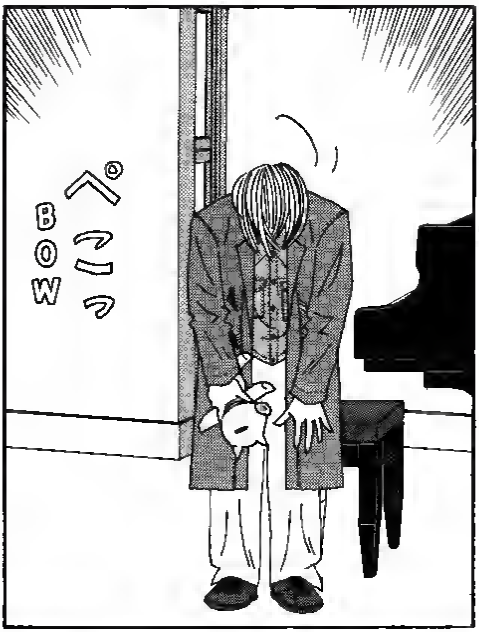
...IS PERFECTLY ALIGNED!

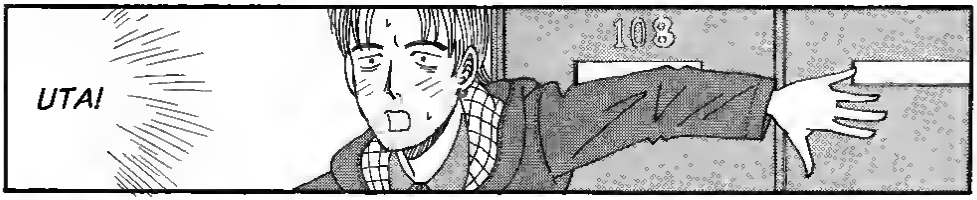

THE PLACE WHERE THEY ALWAYS COLLIDE...
THE RIGHT HAND MOUSE JOINS THE LEFT HAND MOUSE.

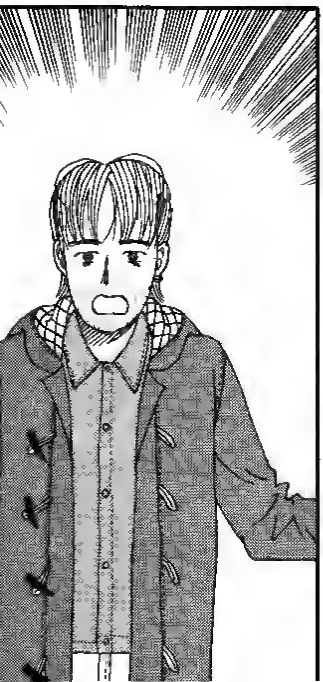

IT'S LIKE THEY'RE ON FIRE.
MY HANDS ARE HOT.

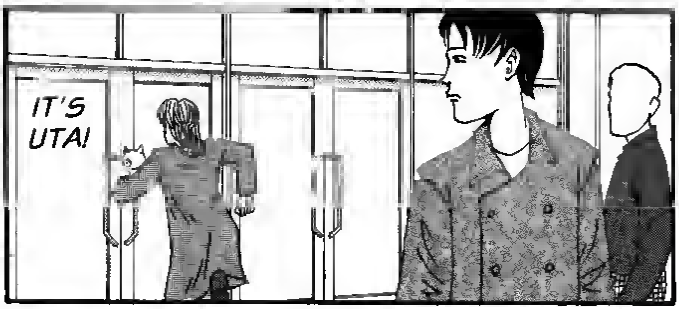
I'M POSSESSED BY UTAI

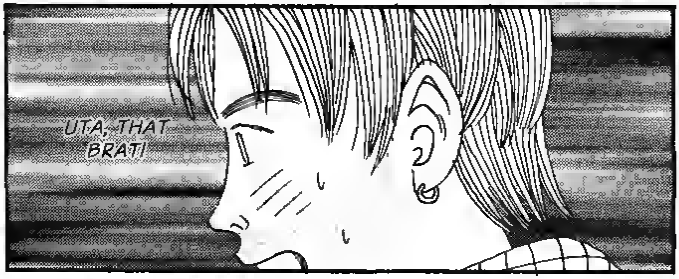
ゴクッ
GULP
...!
パチパチ CLAP
パチパチ CLAP
パチパチ CLAP


BOW

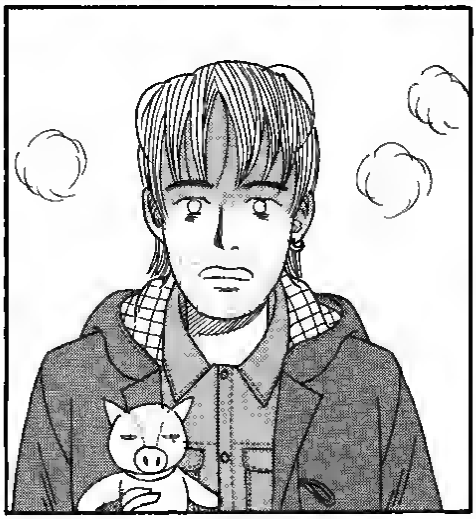

UTA!
108

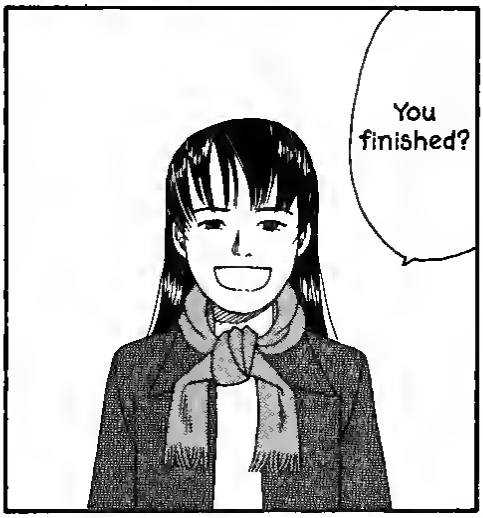



IT'S UTA!


UTA...THAT BRAT!

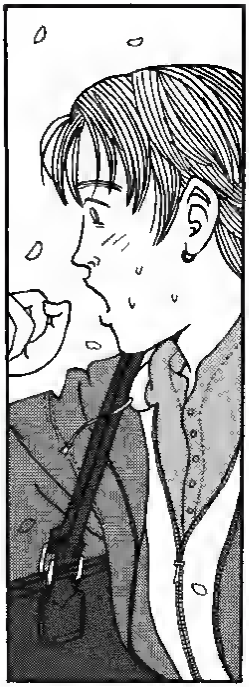
.....



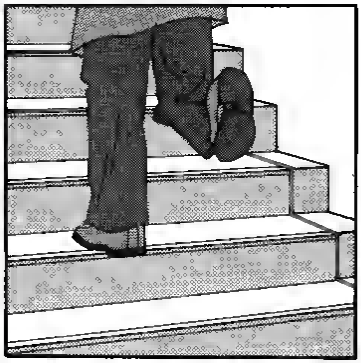

You finished?

I finished...

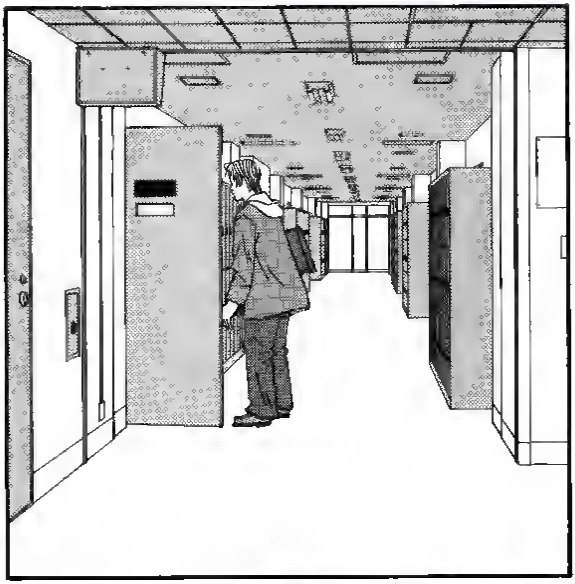
Chapter 26 The Mediocre Song

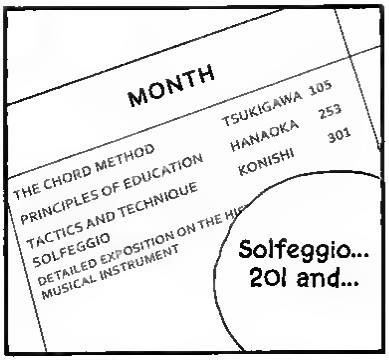


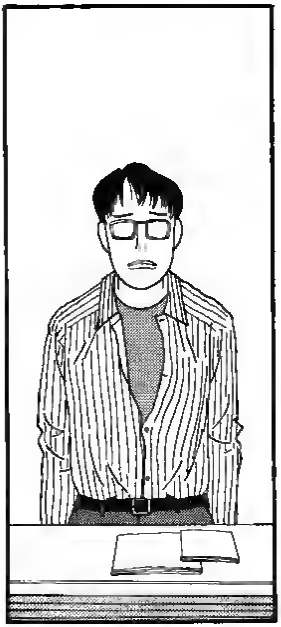
APRIL
EIKO MUSIC COLLEGE

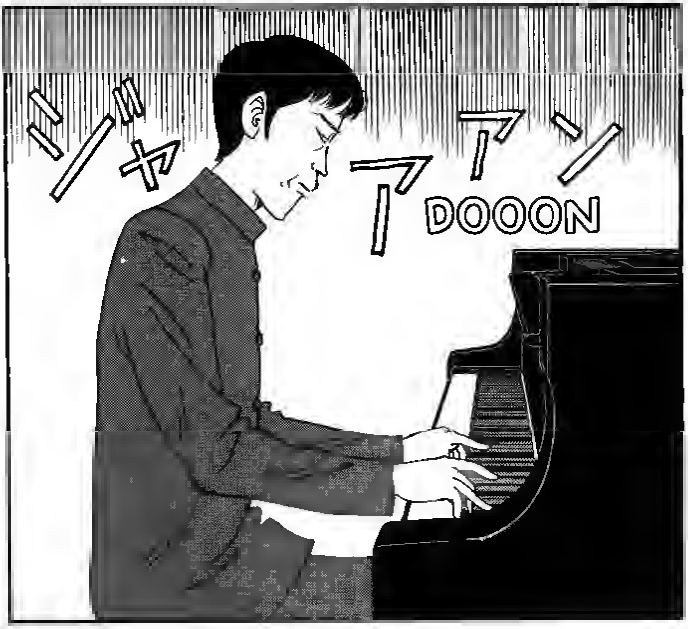


HUFF
HUFF




MONTH
THE CHORD METHOD TSUKIGAWA 105
PRINCIPLES OF EDUCATION HANAOKA 253
TACTICS AND TECHNIQUE KONISHI 301
SOLFEGGIO
DETAILED EXPOSITION ON THE HI
MUSICAL INSTRUMENT
Solfeggio... 201 and...

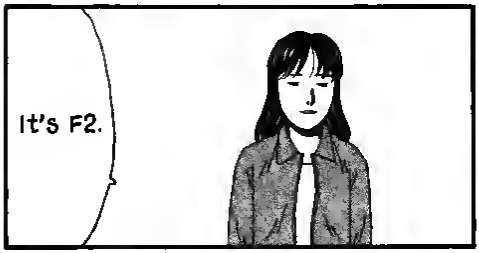


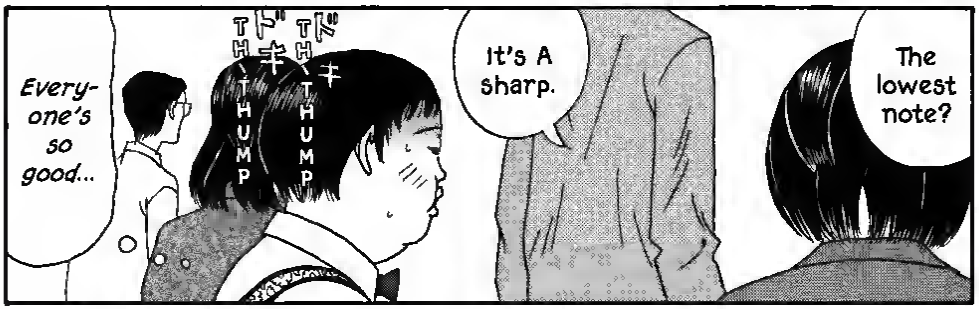

DOOON

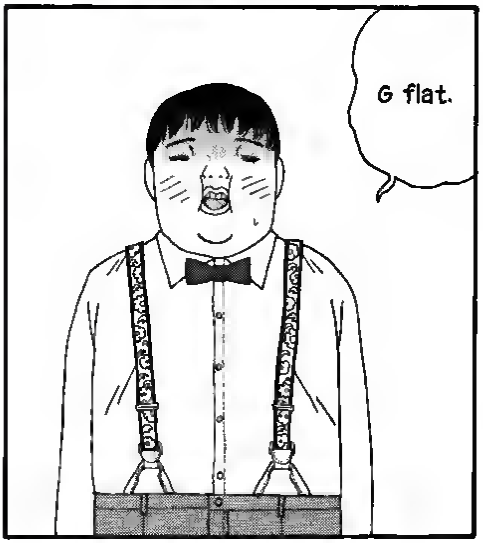
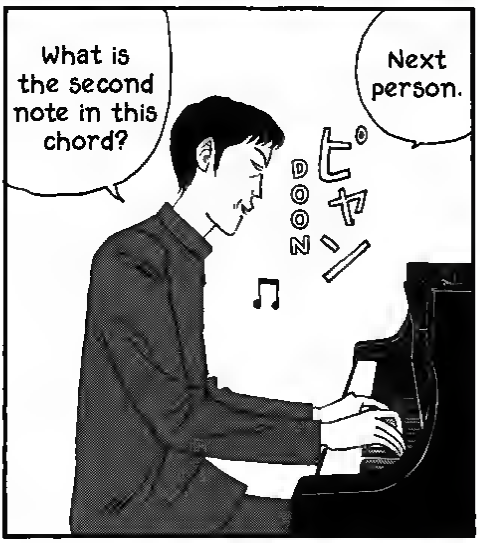
Tell me the second note in this chord.

What about the second highest note in this chord?

It's E.
.....


It's F2.


Every-one's so good...
ドキ THUMP
ドキ THUMP
It's A sharp.
The lowest note?


G flat.

What is the second note in this chord?
Next person.
ピヤーン
DOON

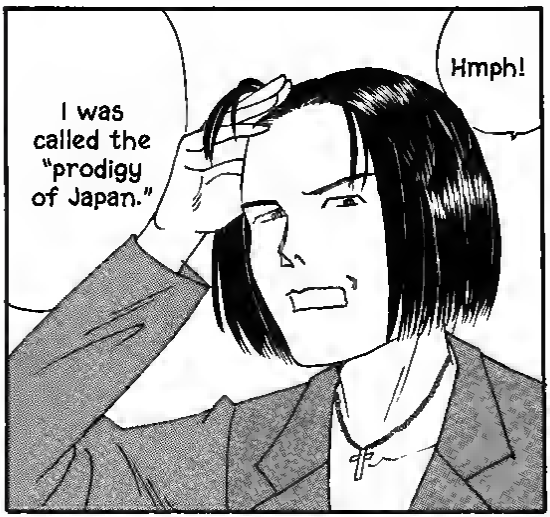
It's G.
Bingo!
BOO.
Because today was a lesson day...
...I unintentionally got absorbed in the piano...
The one who just came in!
Why are you late?
What is the fourth note in this chord?
ドガ ーン
BAM

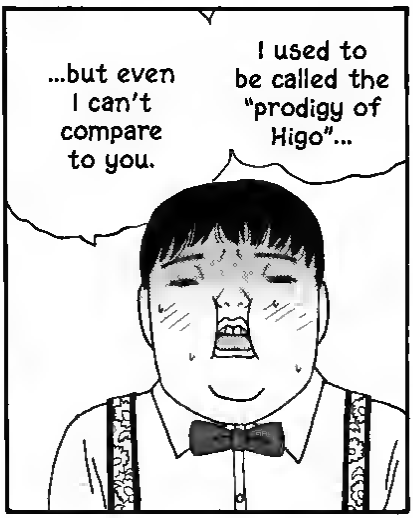
What's wrong?
ウォ…ン
WHOAA
Um...
It's E flat.
You didn't enter the piano department at the top of the class for nothing.
As expected of Mr. Kikuna.
Bingo!
おおーっ
OOOHHH

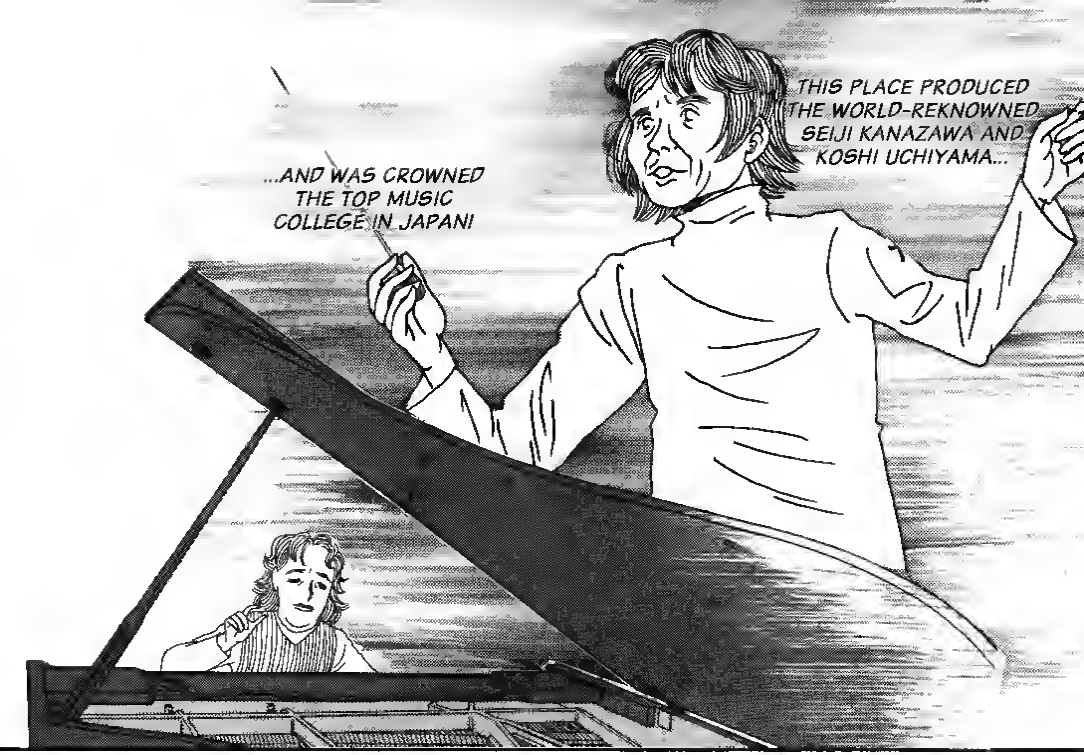
I'm... at the top of the class?
Huh?
ざわ...
CHATTER
ざわ
CHATTER
That's ridiculous!
What?!
WHAT'S WITH THOSE LOOKS?
WHAT?
WHA-?

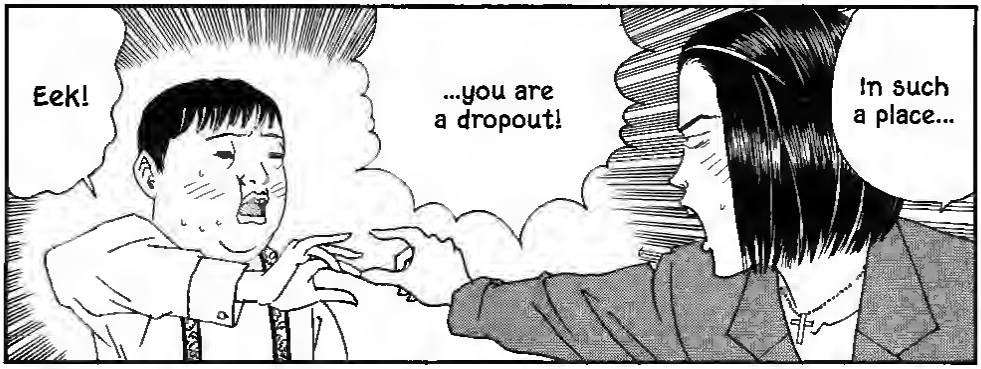
I'm shocked! Shocked by that professor!
You're amazing, Wao.
What methods did you use to get in, you bastard?

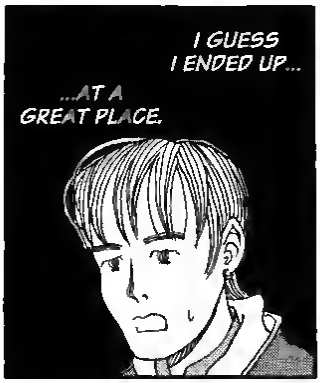
...everyone has great hearing!
But...

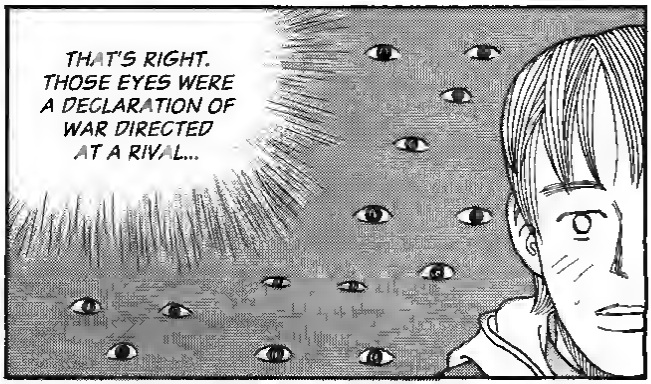

I was called the "prodigy of Japan."
Hmph!


...but even I can't compare to you.
I used to be called the "prodigy of Higo"...

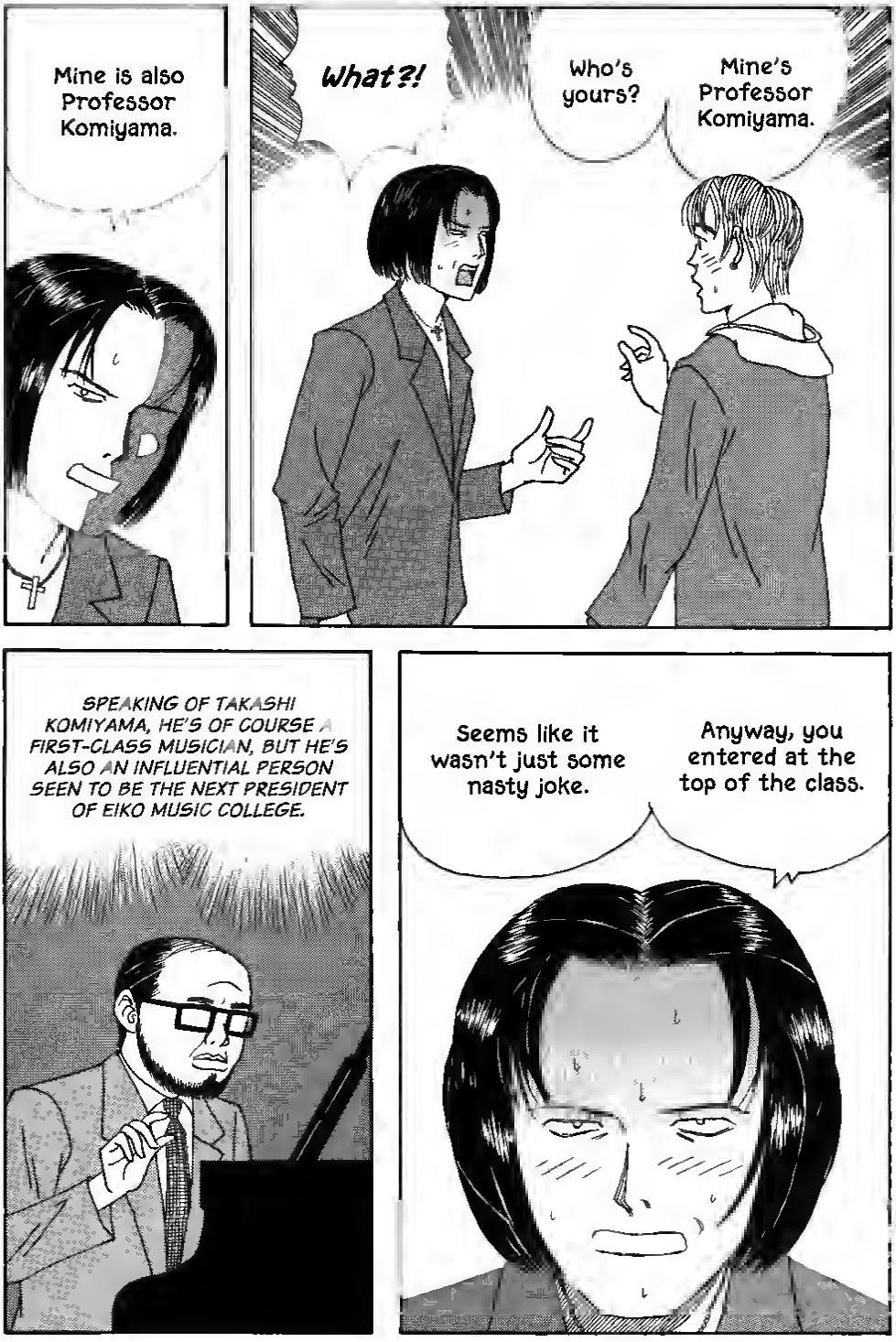

THIS PLACE PRODUCED THE WORLD-REKNOWNED SEIJI KANAZAWA AND KOSHI UCHIYAMA...
...AND WAS CROWNED THE TOP MUSIC COLLEGE IN JAPAN!

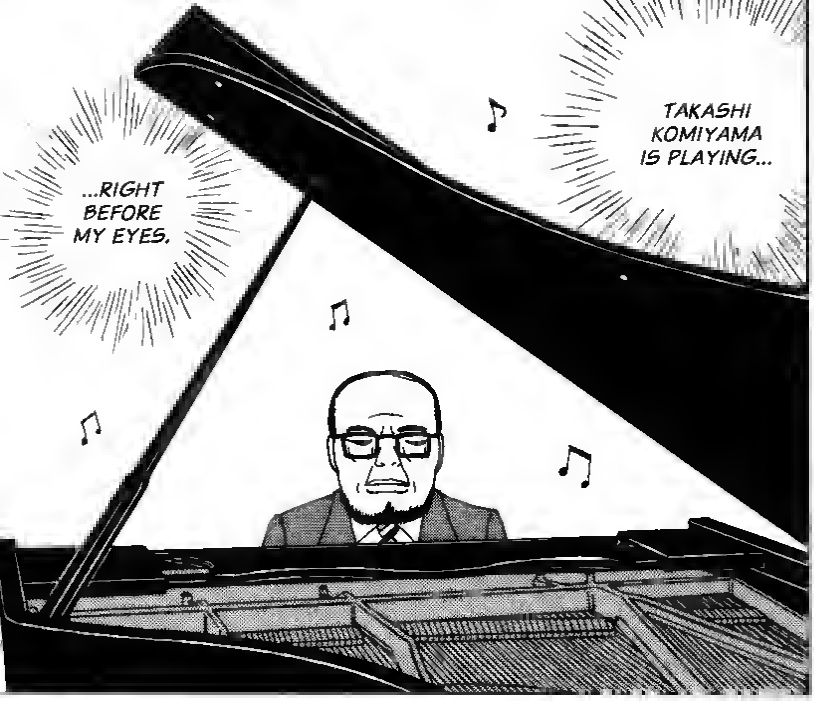

Eek!
...you are a dropout!
In such a place...

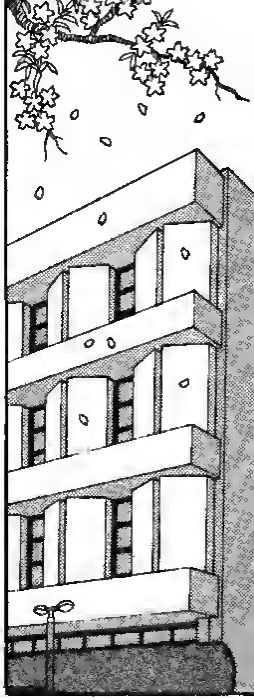

I GUESS I ENDED UP...
...AT A GREAT PLACE.


THAT'S RIGHT. THOSE EYES WERE A DECLARATION OF WAR DIRECTED AT A RIVAL...

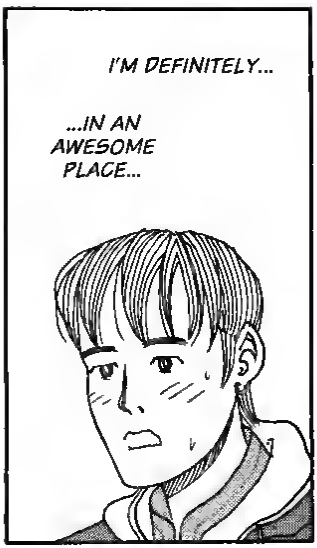
Like I said, I was late because I was frantically playing the piano since morning.
Do you also have specialized skills training on Monday?
Oh. I have to go to my lesson.
Who became your destined practical skills instructor?
Destined?
In regards to practical piano skills...
...you get the uninterrupted supervision of one professor for four years.
That's why the practical skills instructor you end up with...
...will also determine the fate of the pianist.


Mine is also Professor Komiyama.
What?!
Who's yours?
Mine's Professor Komiyama.
SPEAKING OF TAKASHI KOMIYAMA, HE'S OF COURSE A FIRST-CLASS MUSICIAN, BUT HE'S ALSO AN INFLUENTIAL PERSON SEEN TO BE THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF EIKO MUSIC COLLEGE.
Seems like it wasn't just some nasty joke.
Anyway, you entered at the top of the class.


...RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES.
TAKASHI KOMIYAMA IS PLAYING...



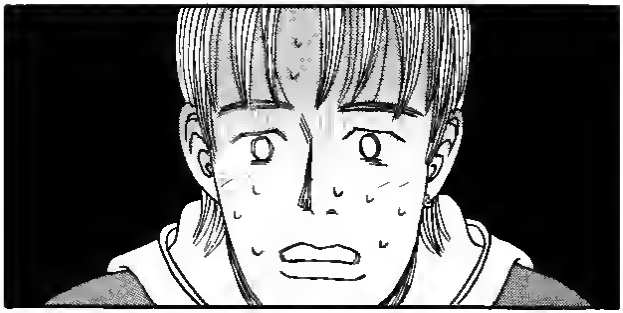
NOT ON NHK'S EDUCATIONAL TV...

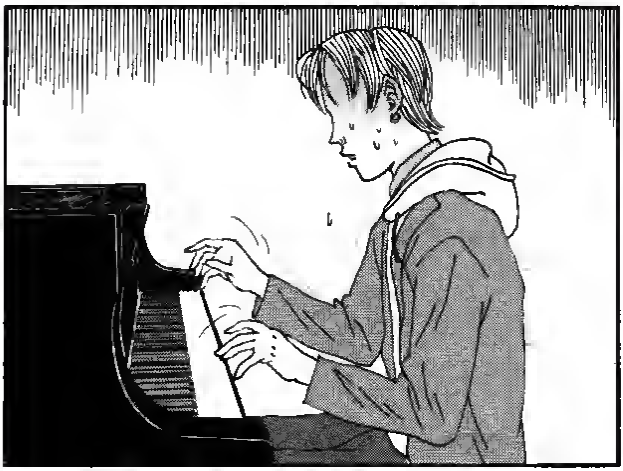

I'M DEFINITELY...
...IN AN AWESOME PLACE...

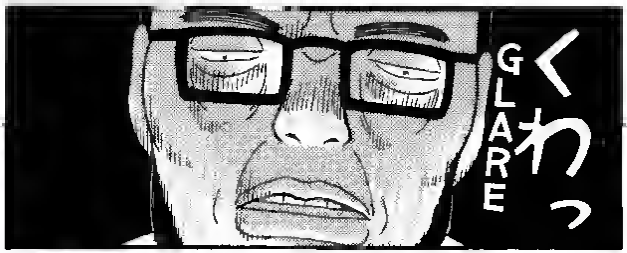
In other words, I only teach promising people.
FLICK
...winners of competitions are here every day.
Every year from my class...
Yes!
Do your best so as to not betray my expectations.
No. I practiced a lot, so I'll be fine.
I wonder if I'll... freeze up.
Now play.
TURN
It's a lesson.
This isn't an entrance exam.

The contour is blurred.
The sound is weak.
Agogic! Agogic!
Yes!
Lift your fingers! Clarify the sound!
Agogic accents in the variation of the tempo!
Ago...?

SHIFF
SHIFF
You're an Eiko student!
You don't even know that?!
You are lying.
No.
There's no such thing!
Did you come here without any preparation?
If you are not a liar...
I played for two hours this morning.
I bet you skip practice every day.






くわっ
GLARE

...then I'm very afraid.

BAM
Stop playing!

Listen to this sound.
PUSH
PUSH
Ugh!
CRYY
オオ……ン
The piano is crying.

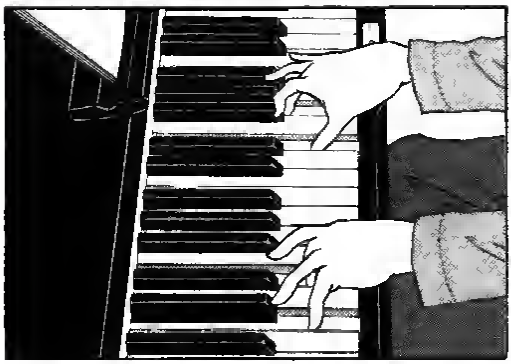
BANG
Prepare properly before coming to the next lesson!
Lies are not tolerated.

...I'M JUST A MEDIOCRE PIANIST.
WITHOUT UTA...

I KNEW IT.

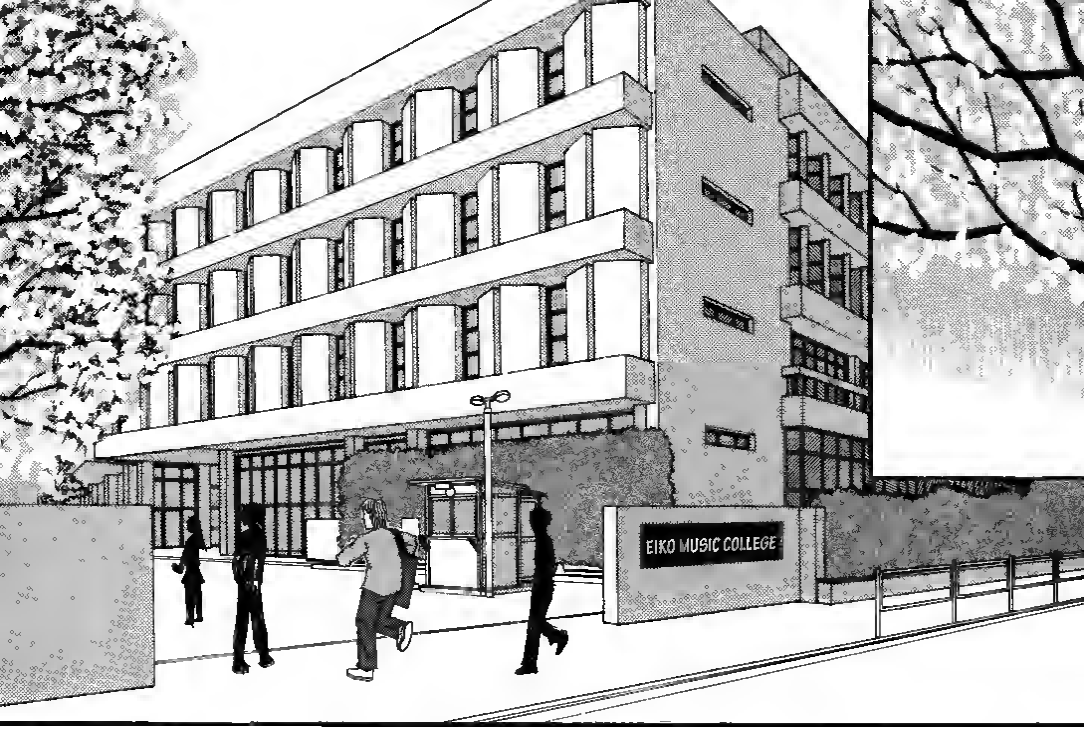
Chapter 27 The Sakura Song

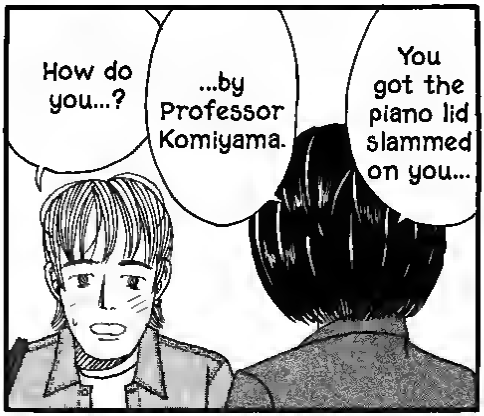
KIKUNA GROCERY

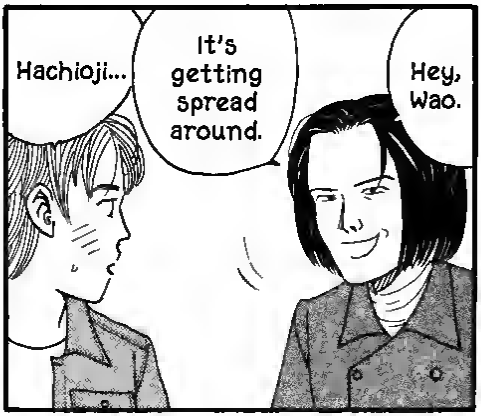


Yikes!
It's 8:30, Wao.
KIKUNA

Hey! See ya!
Wao!
KIKUNA GROCERY
I'm off!
.....
I'll go bring it to him!
Hey, Pop!
Hey, Wao!
You forgot your score.
Uta!
Ah!


EIKO MUSIC COLLEGE


How do you...?
...by Professor Komiyama.
You got the piano lid slammed on you...


Hachioji...
It's getting spread around.
Hey, Wao.

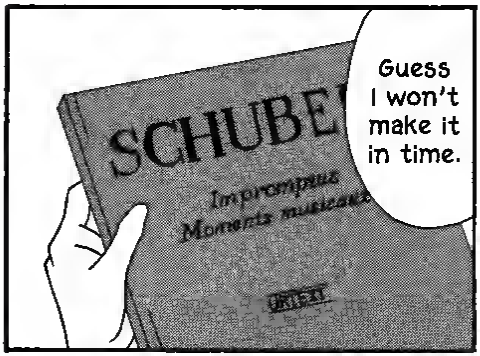
...rumors spread fast.
Within the school...

Who did you hear that from?
You got the piano lid slammed on you by Professor Komiyama, right?
Kurokawachi.
Hey, Kikuna.
You...
Haha... I got found out.
Hachioji saw it from a peephole in the lesson room.
The genius, Kaoru Miko-shiba?
Miko-shiba...
Mine is Professor Mikoshiba.
Who's your practical skills instructor?

Now that you mention it...
...nothing has been heard of him these days.
He was praised as a great genius at one time, but...
Gaahhh! No! No!
I actually wanted to be assigned to him.
That's awesome, Kuro-kawachi.
Nooo!
A dropout professor looks after a dropout student!
Even I don't know when I'll be branded a dropout...

That Wao.
Tch! He must've got on the previous train.

千川駅
SENKAWA STA.

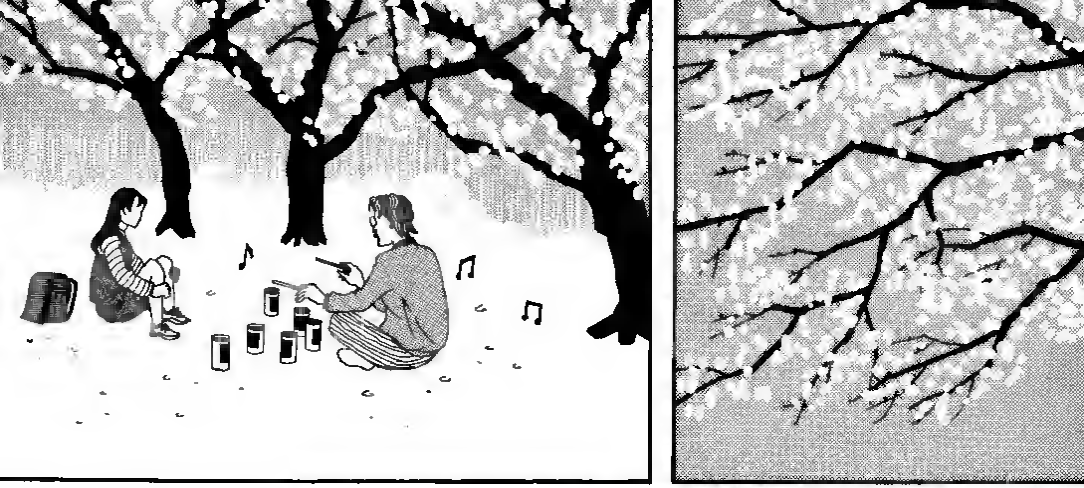

Guess I won't make it in time.
SCHUBE
Impromptus
Moments musicaux

I even came all the way here!

POP
SWAY SWAY

Where was it again?
That college...

チンチチン
TAP T-TAP
グビ
GULP
チキン
T-TAP
GULP
クビ
It's an A note!
Where's Eiko Music College?
Hey, Pops!

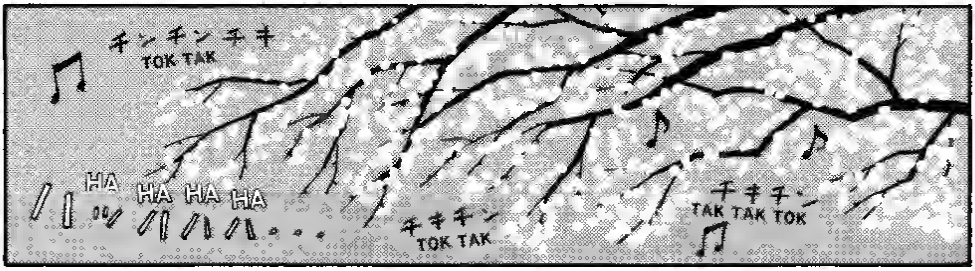


Those sounds aren't on the piano.
チ チ チ キ
TAK TOK
チ ン
TAK TOK
チ キ

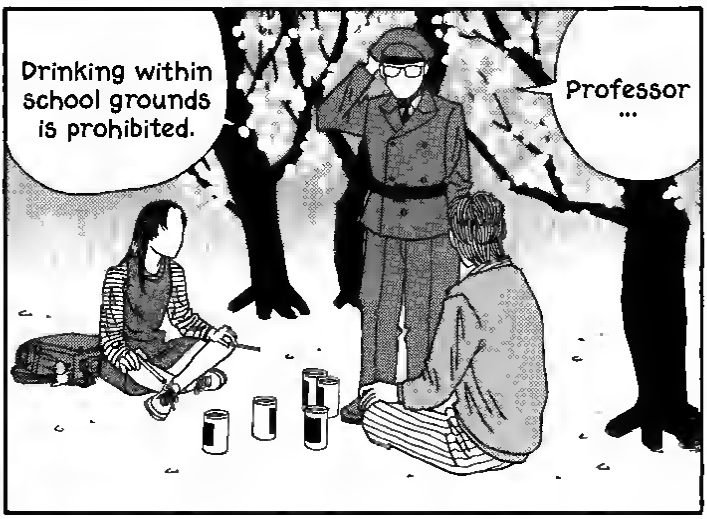
...of the gamelan of Java.
It's the music...
So, you know?
Oh?

...from having heard it just once.
You learned it...

チンチキ
TAK TAK
♪ TIK TOK
チチチキ
TAK TOK
チンチン

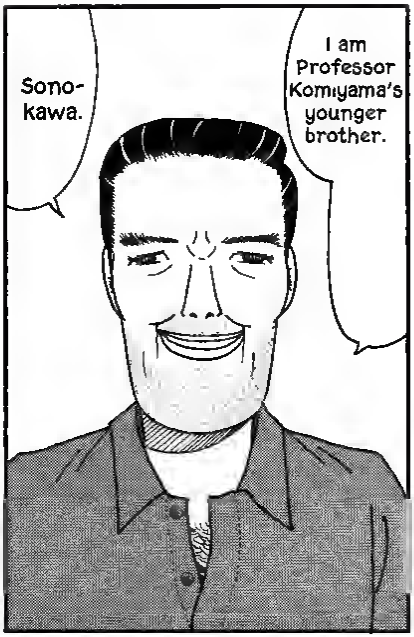

チンチンチキ
TOK TAK
HA HA HA HA
チキチン
TOK TAK
チキチ
TAK TAK TOK

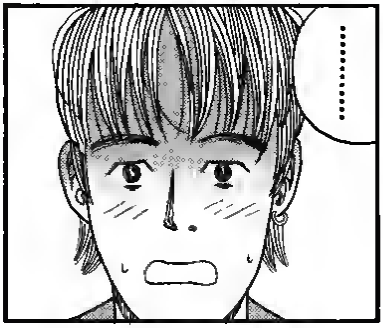
Professor?


Drinking within school grounds is prohibited.
Professor ...

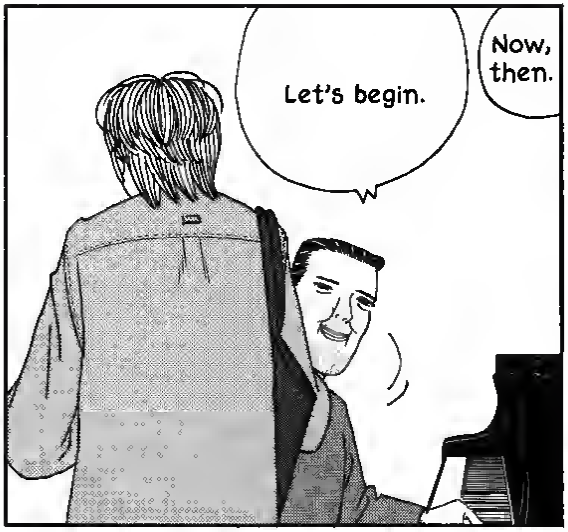
The Schubert score...
Damn.
I forgot it.
It's time for lessons.
Oops.
This time you might get your chair kicked away.
Heh!
My manner of learning, itself, will fuel their doubts.
What should I do? That's the only one I practiced.
!
...I have it with me.
If it's Schubert's impromptu music...
SCHUBERT

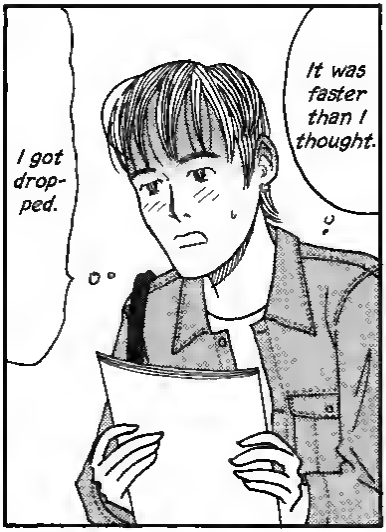
Helping your enemy when they're in trouble.
Hmph! You're softhearted, too.
I owe you one.
It's a piece that I like, so I always carry it with me.
THITHUMP
ドキ
ドキ
THITHUMP
Huh?
Um...
Excuse me!
KNOCK
コンコン
KNOCK

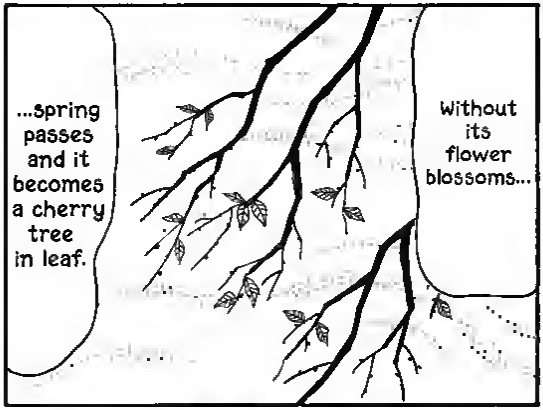


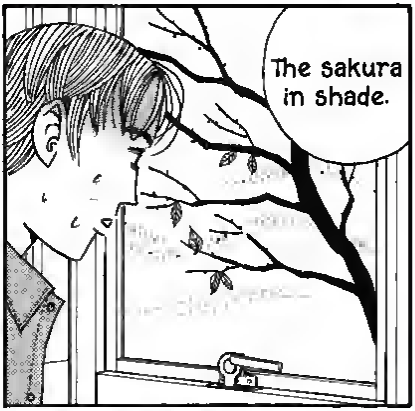


HANON: A COLLECTION OF MUSIC FOR FINGER TRAINING.

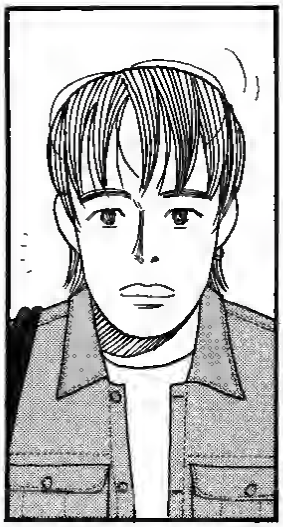

Now, then.
Let's begin.

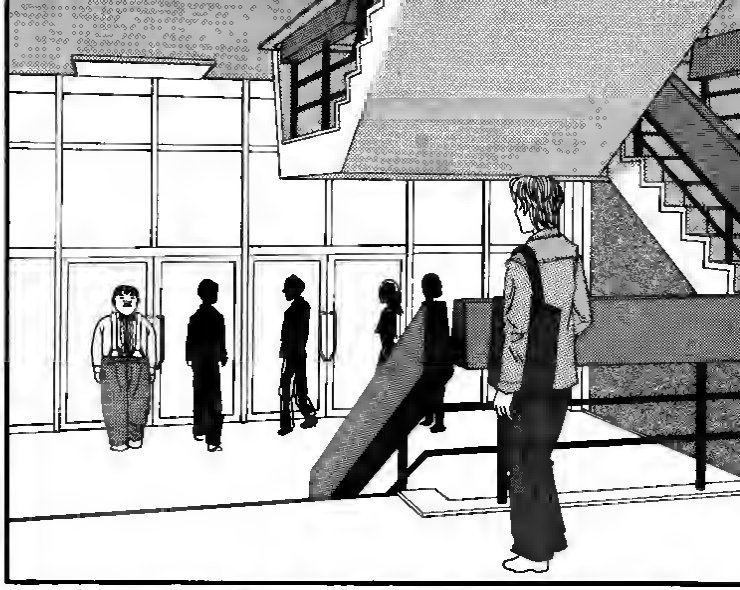

It was faster than I thought.
I got dropped.

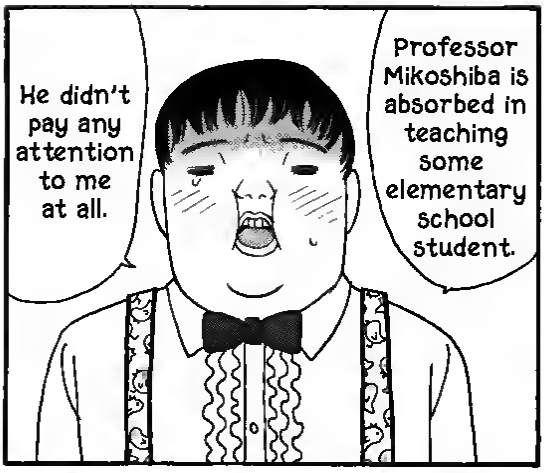

...spring passes and it becomes a cherry tree in leaf.
Without its flower blossoms...


The sakura in shade.

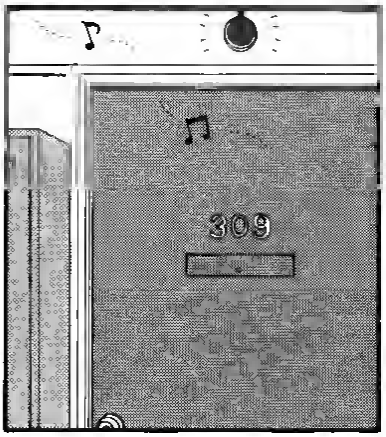
...END UP A SAKURA IN SHADE AT THIS COLLEGE?
WILL I...





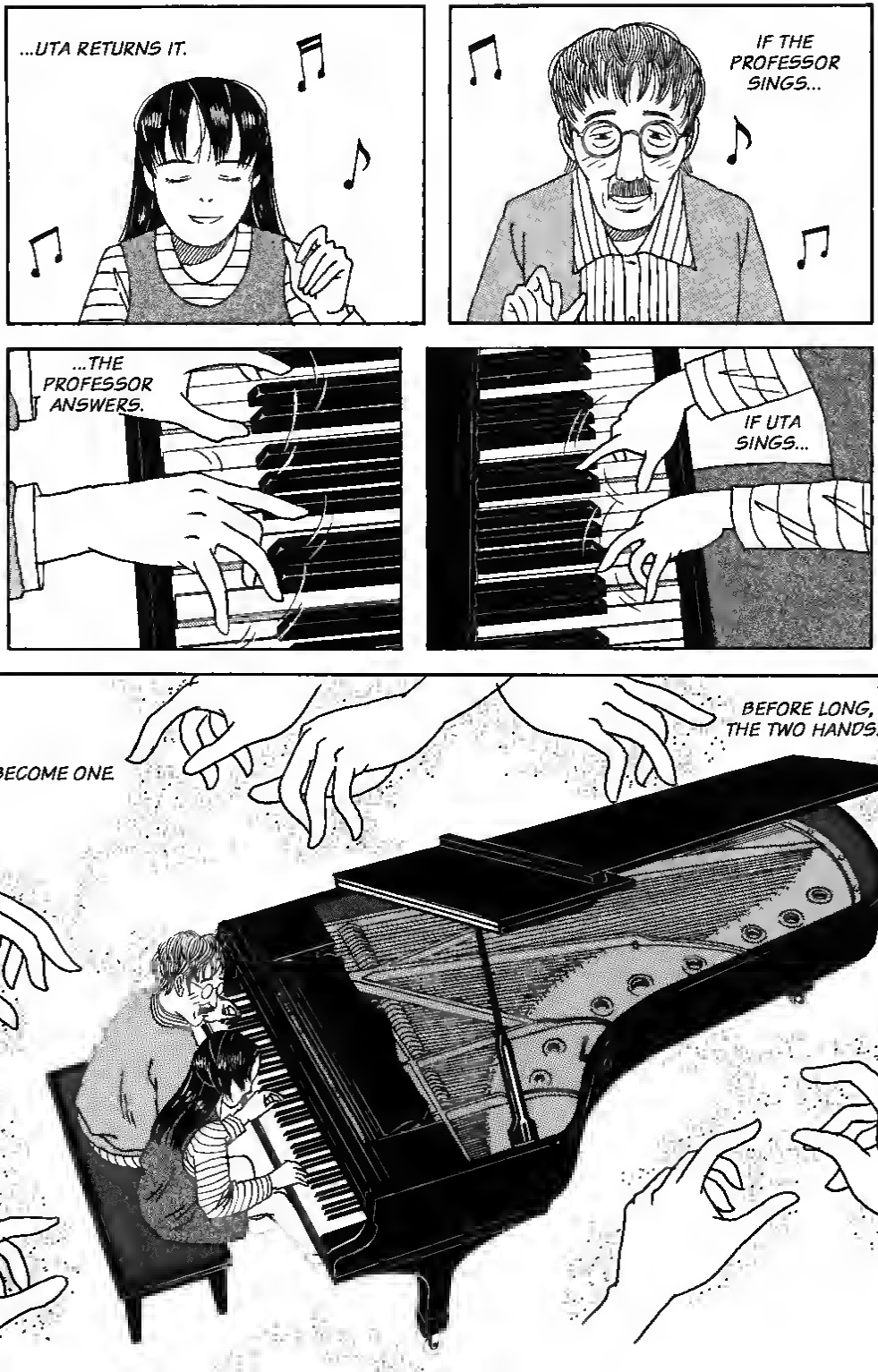

He didn't pay any attention to me at all.
Professor Mikoshiba is absorbed in teaching some elementary school student.

Yeah. Well, about that...
Don't you have your lesson?
What's up, Kurokawachi?


309

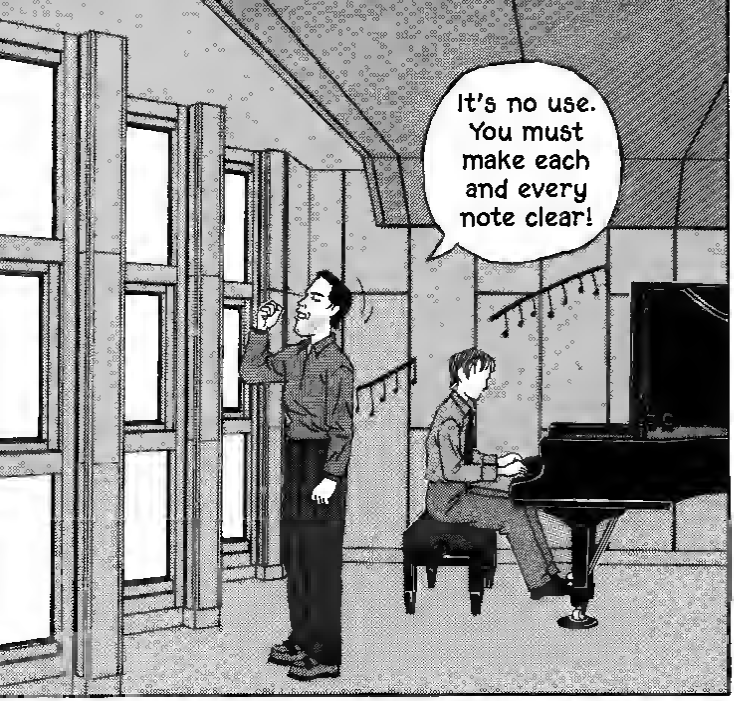
Geez. That kid's got some scary skills.
That's right.
An elementary school student?!

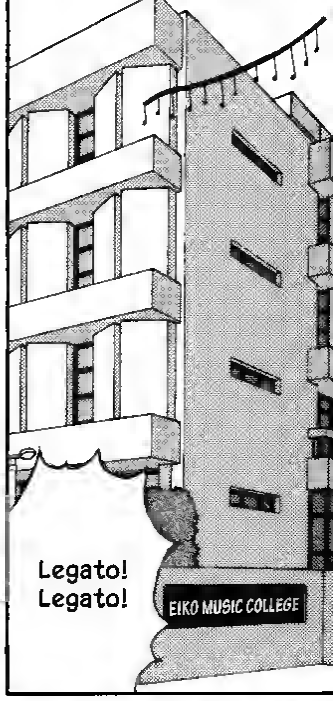
Why are you...?
Uta...
THAT ROOM WAS FILLED...
...WITH AMAZING MUSIC.

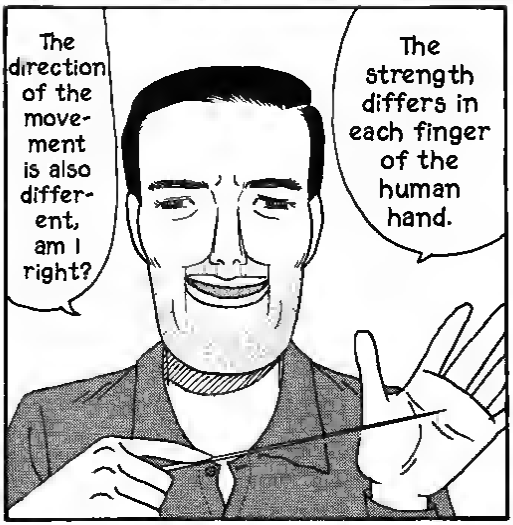

...UTA RETURNS IT.
IF THE PROFESSOR SINGS...
...THE PROFESSOR ANSWERS.
IF UTA SINGS...
BEFORE LONG, THE TWO HANDS...
...BECOME ONE.

...WAVE OF MUSIC.
IT BECAME A LARGE...
...BLOOMED!
THE BLOSSOMS ...
THE SAKURA IN SHADE, TOO!

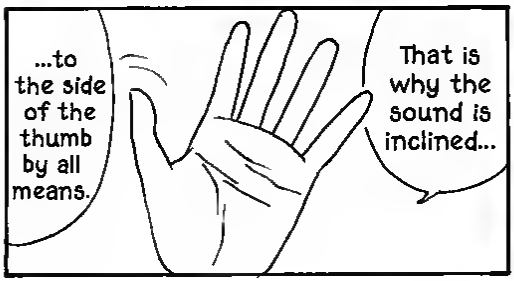
Chapter 28 The Stray Song


It's no use. You must make each and every note clear!


Legato! Legato!
EIKO MUSIC COLLEGE

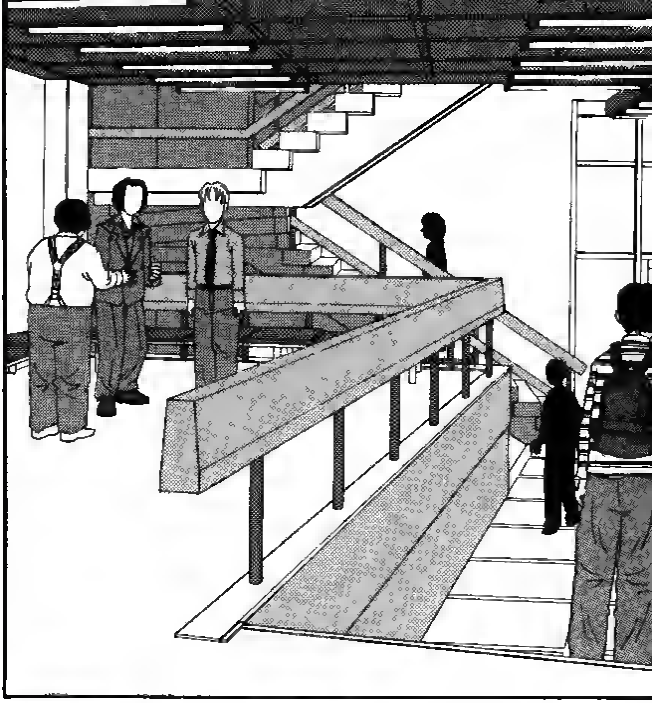

The direction of the movement is also different, am I right?
The strength differs in each finger of the human hand.

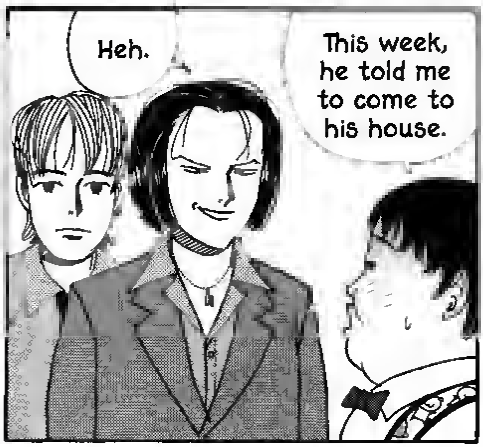
The fourth finger!
ビシィ
SLAP

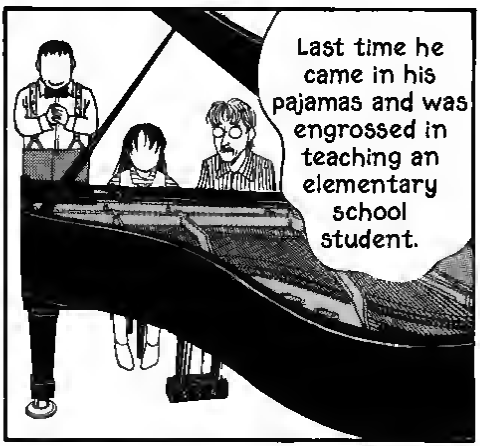

...to the side of the thumb by all means.
That is why the sound is inclined...

See?
Take a look at my finger.
That fourth finger.
Can't it rise more?
TWIST
Ow!
.....
It must rise like this.
BEND
Him dropping out is decided.
Wao, that guy.

What should I do?!
Hachioji!




Heh.
This week, he told me to come to his house.

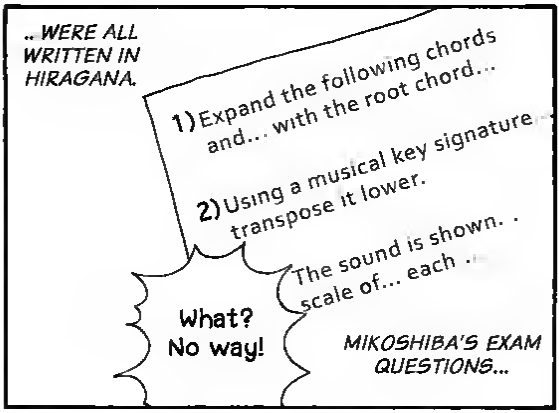

Last time he came in his pajamas and was engrossed in teaching an elementary school student.

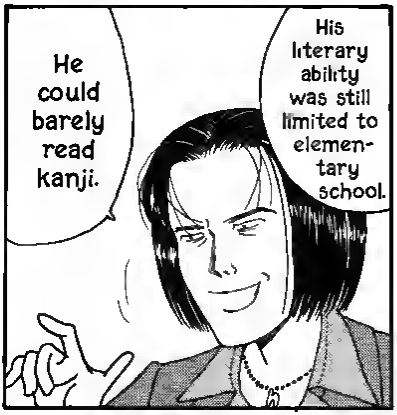
Hmph! Go drop out together!
...should be interesting.
His performance...

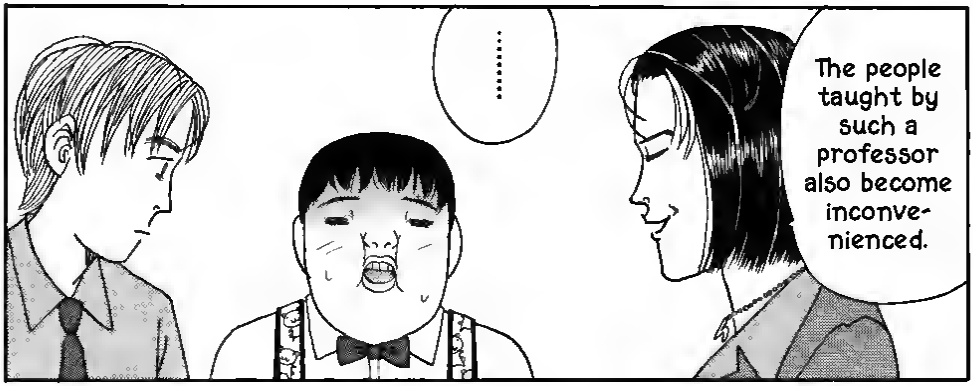
Do you mind if I tag along and observe?
Um.

HE WAS PRAISED AS A GENIUS SINCE HE WAS LITTLE AND A CALL CAME FROM EIKO ACADEMY.

There's a legend about Kaoru Mikoshiba.
Did you know?

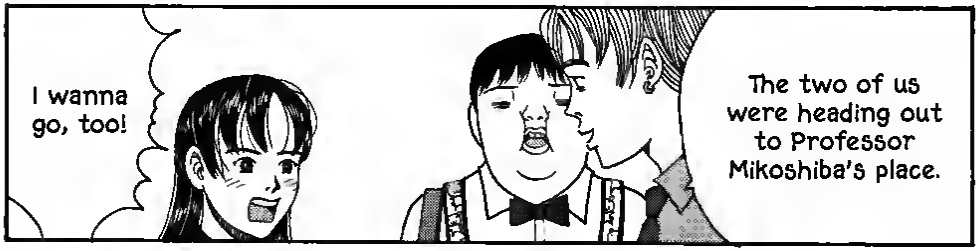

..WERE ALL WRITTEN IN HIRAGANA.
1) Expand the following chords and... with the root chord...
2) Using a musical key signature transpose it lower.
The sound is shown. . scale of... each ..
What? No way!
MIKOSHIBA'S EXAM QUESTIONS...

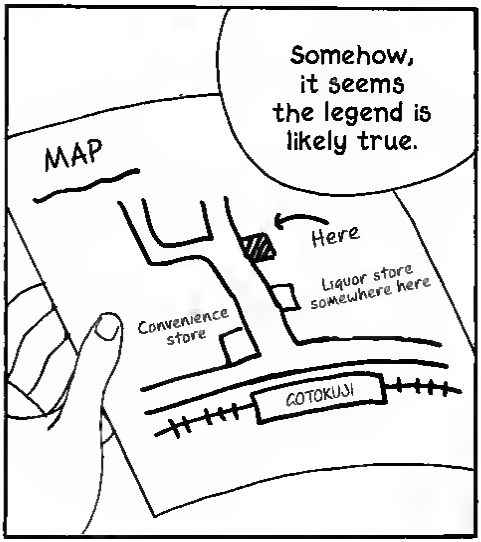

He could barely read kanji.
His literary ability was still limited to elementary school.

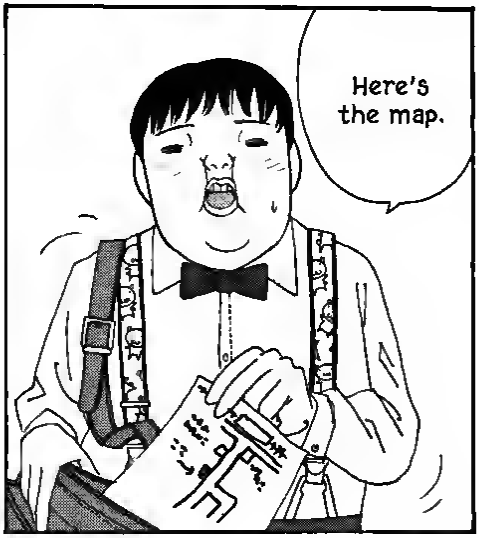

.....
The people taught by such a professor also become inconvenienced.

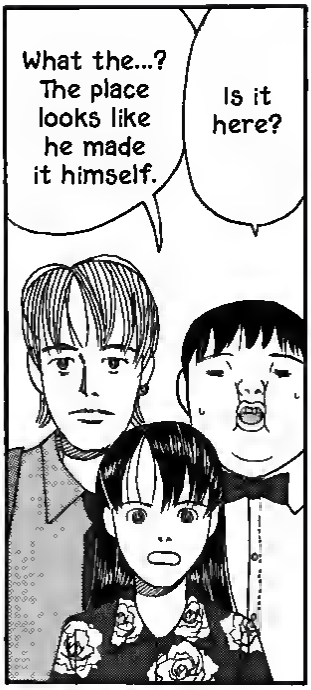
Is Miko here?
You mean... the professor?

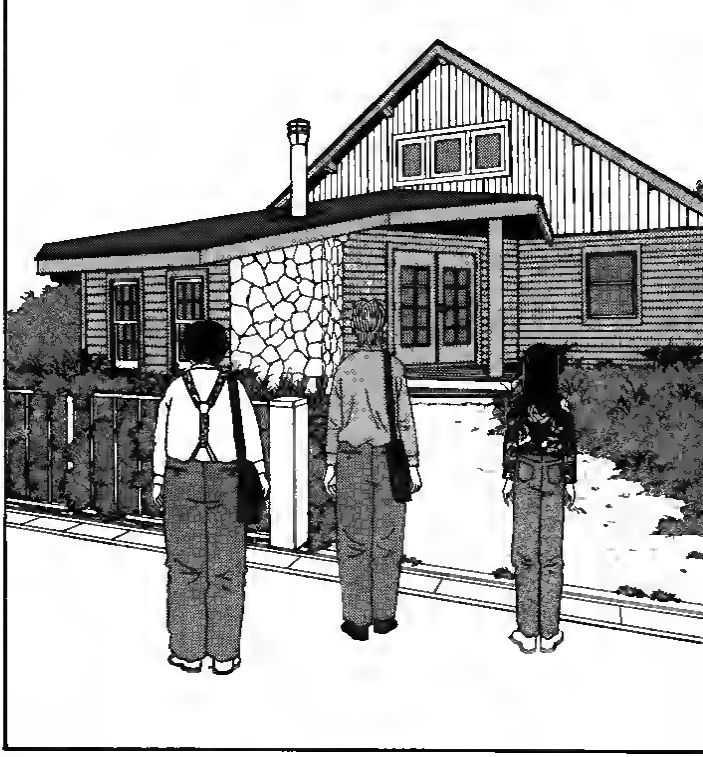
Uta!
What are you doing on campus?

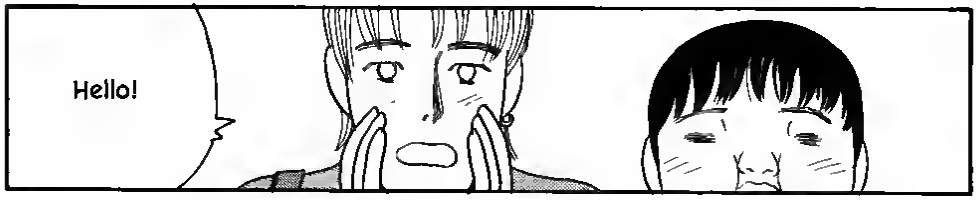

I wanna go, too!
The two of us were heading out to Professor Mikoshiba's place.


Somehow, it seems the legend is likely true.
MAP
Here
Liquor store somewhere here
Convenience store
GOTOKUJI


Here's the map.

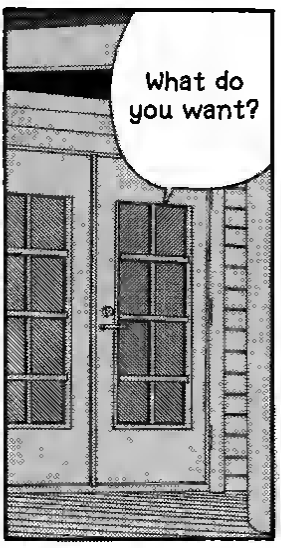

What the...? The place looks like he made it himself.
Is it here?



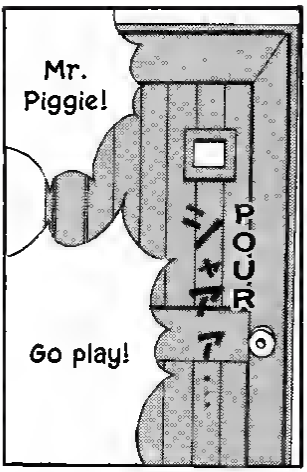

Hello!

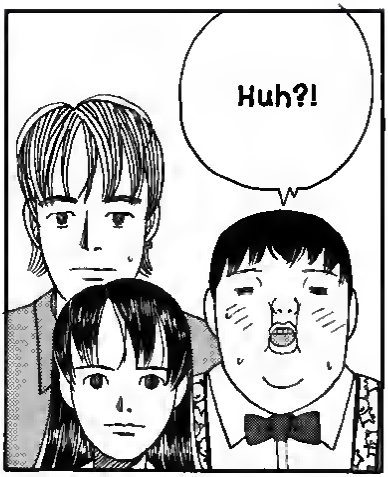
It's me! Me!

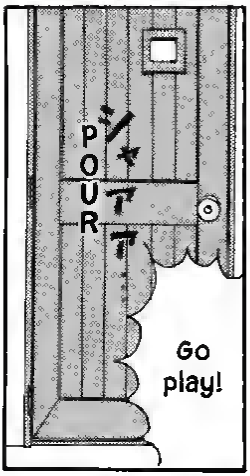
We're not, Miko!
If you're a collector from NHK, I won't pay. I don't have a TV.

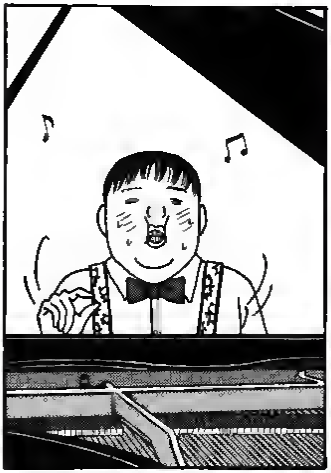

What do you want?

You stink of alcohol, Pops.
You actually came.
Oh! You're that elementary school student.
KLACK
Anyway, I'm about to pee in my pants.
Well, come in. Hurry.
Look at all this pee! Seems like it's going to open up a hole in the toilet!
Ha ha ha!
POUR
SLAM

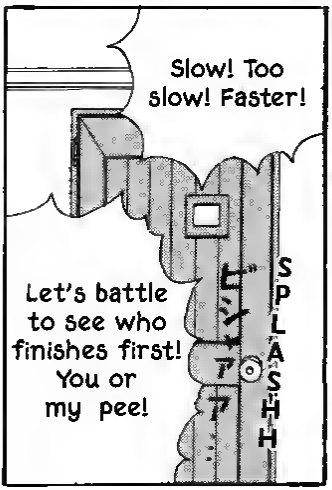

Mr. Piggie!
シャアア
POUR
Go play!


Huh?!

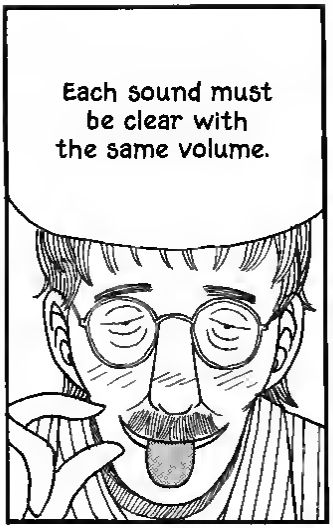

シャアア
POUR
Go play!

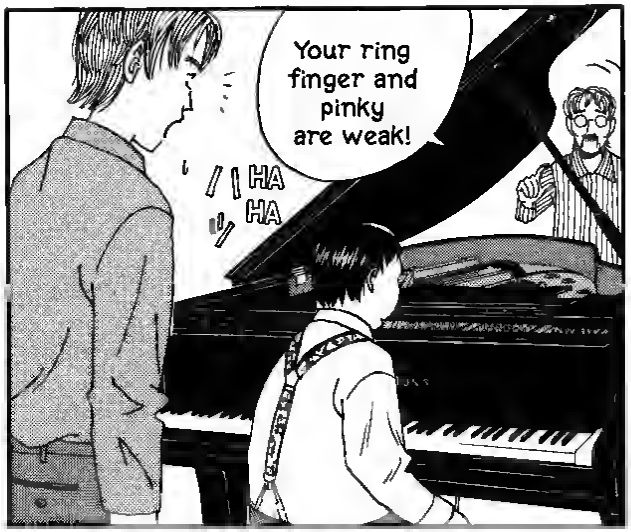


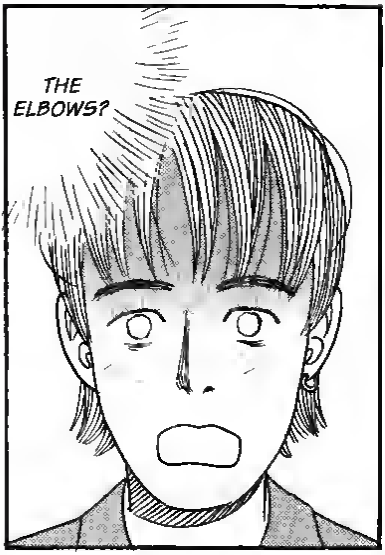
Y-
Yes...
シャアア
POUR

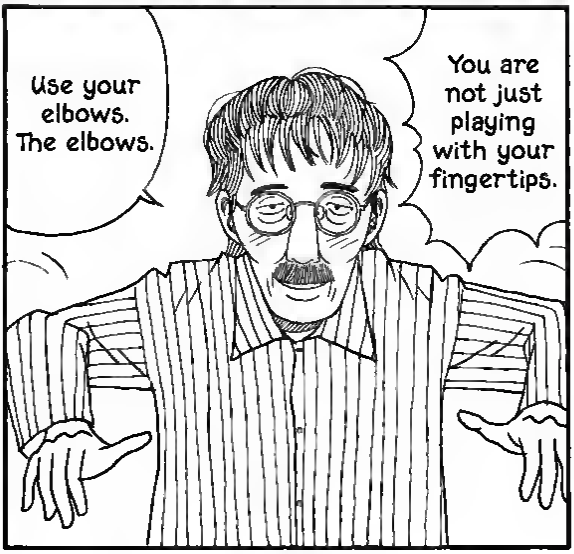

Slow! Too slow! Faster!
Let's battle to see who finishes first! You or my pee!
ビシャアア
SPLASHH

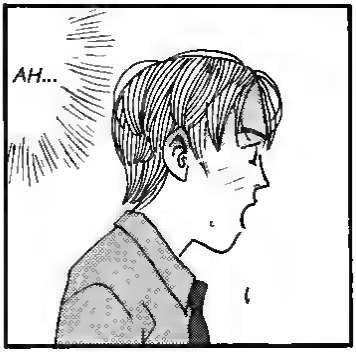
IT'S MY FIRST TIME HEARING IT.
KUROKA-WACHI'S PLAYING...
DONG
HIS PIANO PLAYING IS SIMPLE, BUT CAREFREE.
THERE'S A REASON HE WAS CALLED THE PRODIGY OF HIGO.
That doesn't make me happy.
I lost.
FLUSH


Each sound must be clear with the same volume.


Your ring finger and pinky are weak!
HA HA


THE ELBOWS?


Use your elbows. The elbows.
You are not just playing with your fingertips.

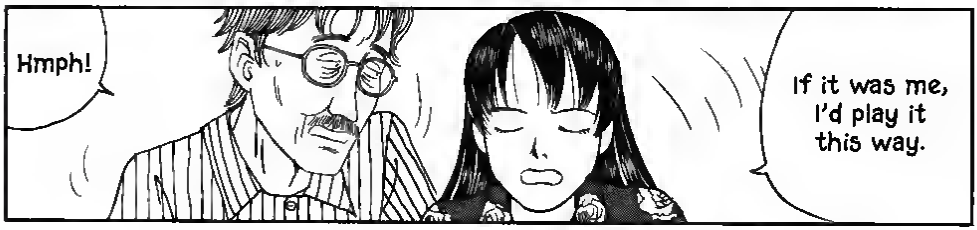

AH...

...the core also enters the sound of your pinky and ring finger.
Like this. When you tighten your elbows against you...

...THEY WERE RESOLVED IN AN INSTANT!
THOUGH KUROKAWACHI HAD THE SAME PROBLEMS AS ME...
Hmm...
...IS DIFFERENT FROM HER USUAL SELF.
UTA...
WITH HIM, HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO TAKE HER DOWN A FEW PEGS.
Hmm...
IF I THINK ABOUT IT, I'VE NEVER SEEN UTA WITH A PIANIST WHO WAS BETTER THAN HER BEFORE.

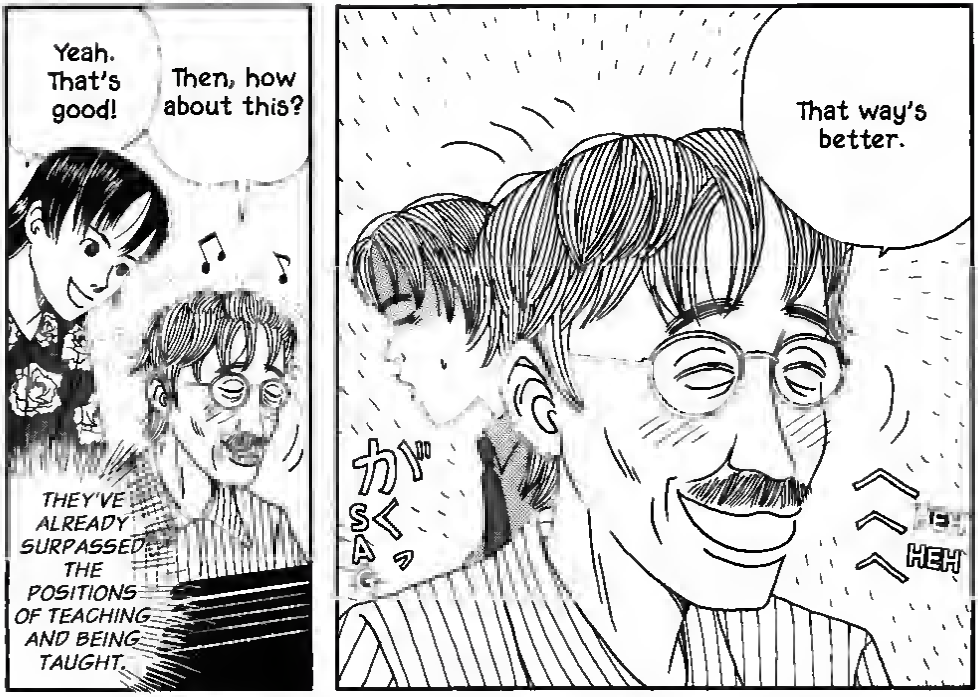
SMIRK
ニヤニヤ

WHAT A CLEAR SOUND!
If it was me, I would play it this way.


Hmph!
If it was me, I'd play it this way.

Hmph!

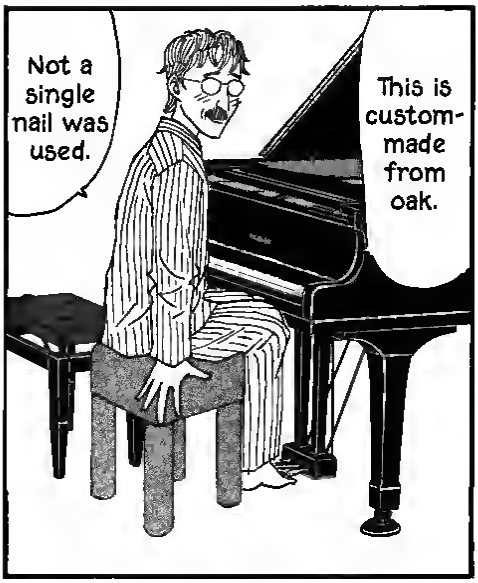
ADON


Yeah. That's good!
Then, how about this?
THEY'VE ALREADY SURPASSED THE POSITIONS OF TEACHING AND BEING TAUGHT.
That way's better.
がくっ
へへへ
HEH

...ARE ON COMPLETELY EQUAL FOOTING!
THESE TWO...

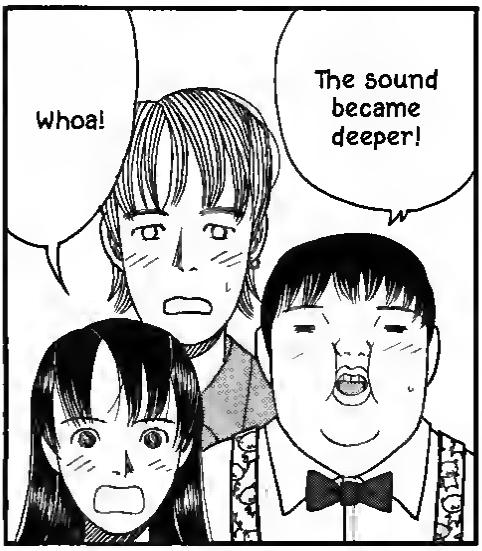
Lobkowicz-style.

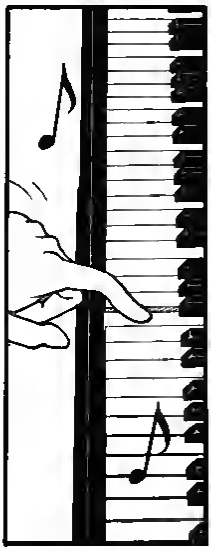
Cascioli.
LOBKOWICZ FULLY EXTENDS HIS FINGERS LIKE THAT.
DID LOBKOWICZ PRODUCE THOSE SWEET AND DARK PIANISSIMOS... BY EXTENDING HIS FINGERS LIKE THAT?
FROM THE MOVEMENT OF HIS ELBOWS, A FORTISSIMO THAT GLITTERS LIKE DIAMONDS..
オーン DOOON
ポーン PON
Even the caster. If you change its direction like this...
It's not just the elbows

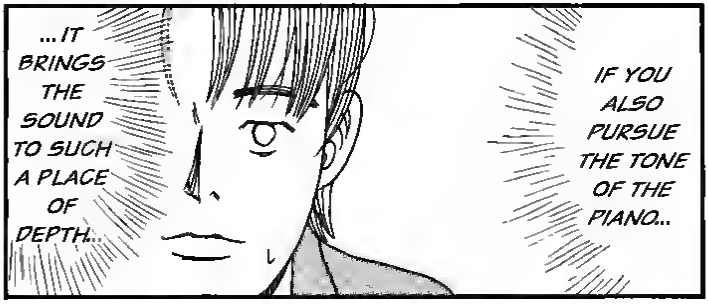

Not a single nail was used.
This is custom-made from oak.

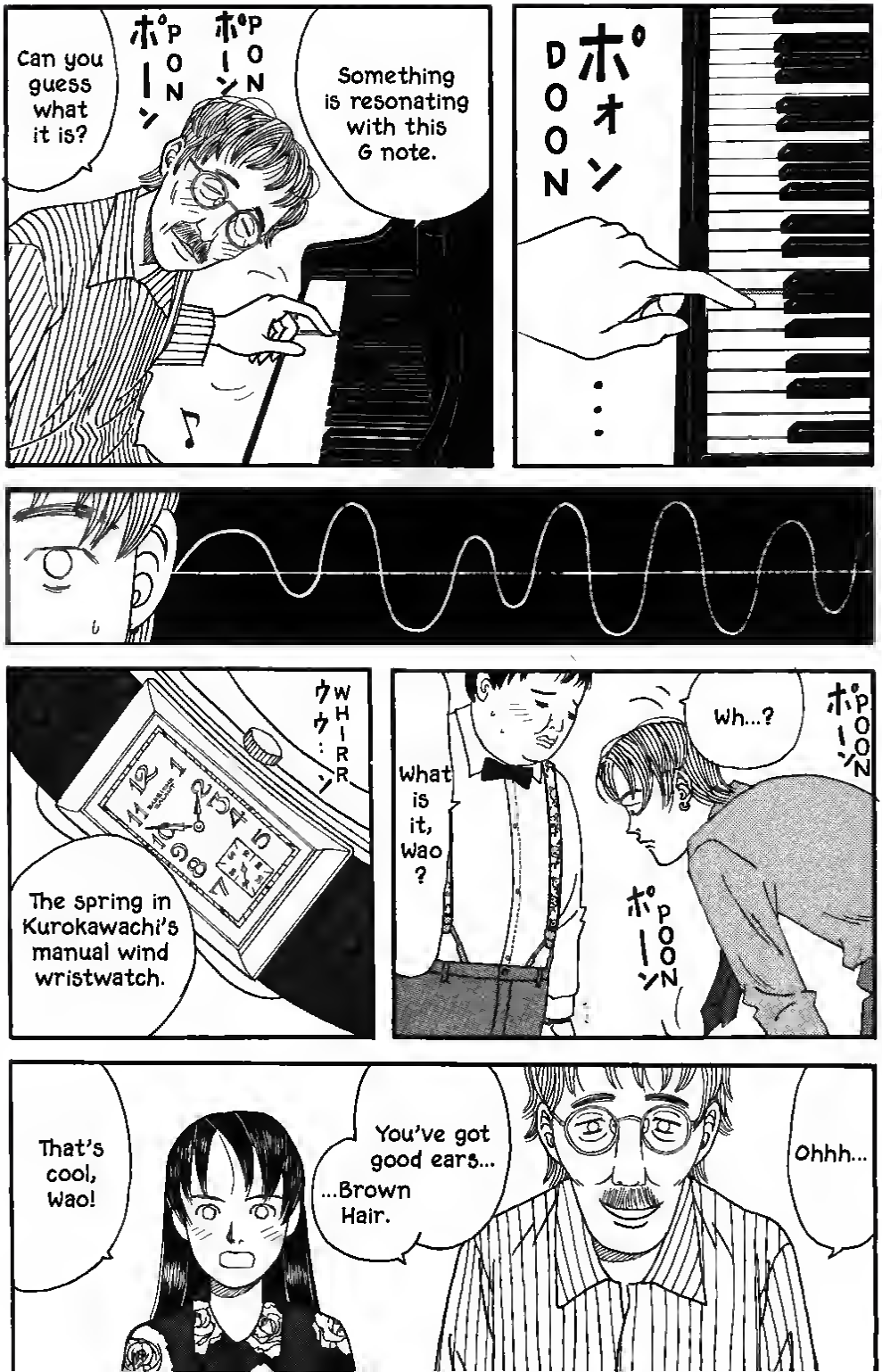
Let's try changing the chair.

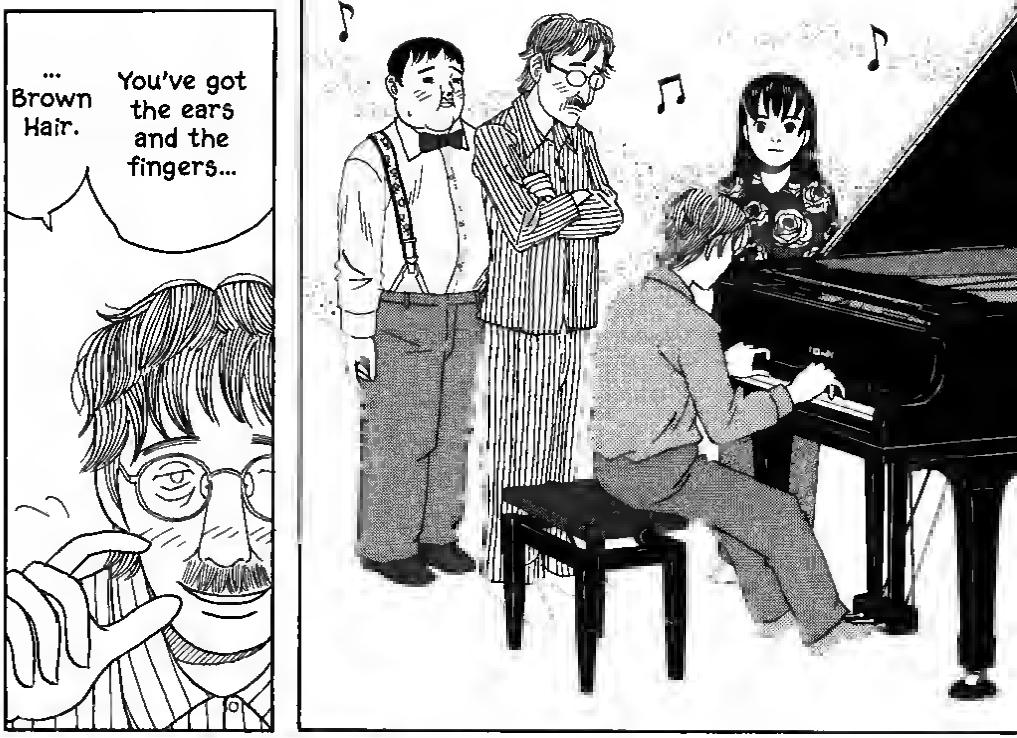
The sound got clearer!
NN
ン…


Whoa!
The sound became deeper!

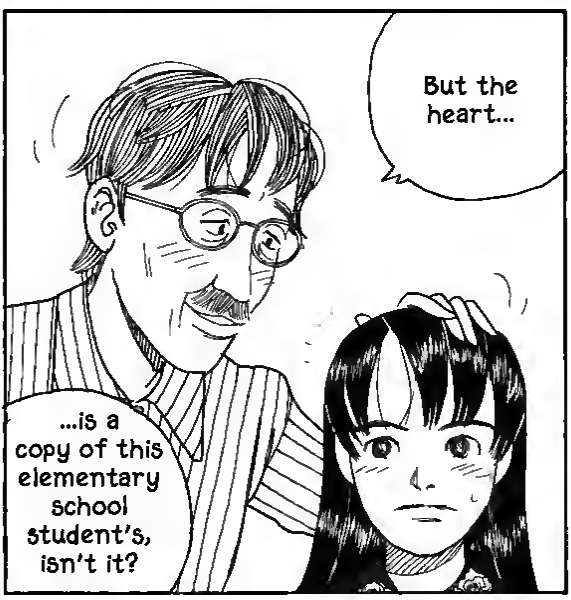



...IT BRINGS THE SOUND TO SUCH A PLACE OF DEPTH...
IF YOU ALSO PURSUE THE TONE OF THE PIANO...

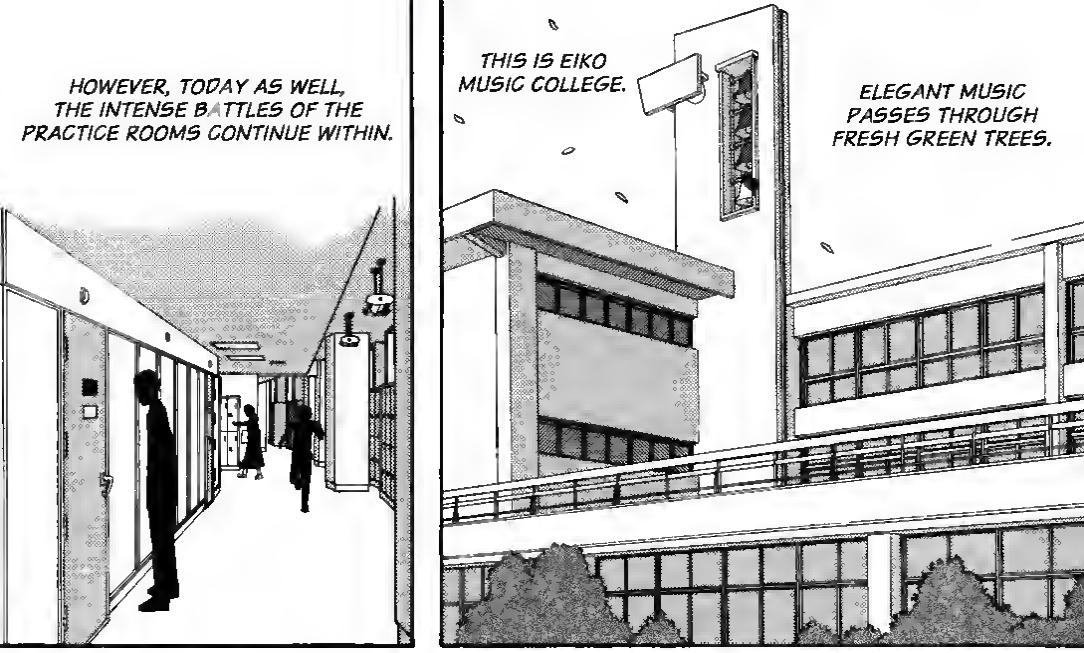

Can you guess what it is?
ポーン PON
ポーン PON
Something is resonating with this G note.
ポォン DOON
...
ウウ：ン WHIRR
The spring in Kurokawachi's manual wind wristwatch.
What is it, Wao?
Wh...?
ポーン POON
ポーン POON
That's cool, Wao!
You've got good ears... ...Brown Hair.
Ohhh...


... Brown Hair.
You've got the ears and the fingers...

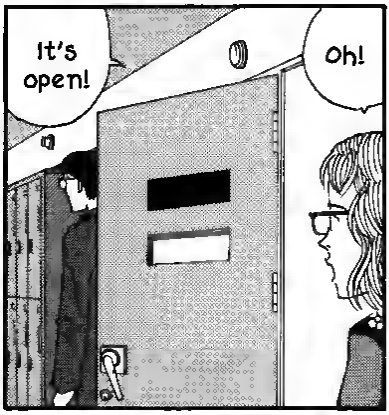
Huh, Brown Hair?
Don't you have a song you want to sing?


But the heart...
...is a copy of this elementary school student's, isn't it?

Chapter 29 The Kanon Song

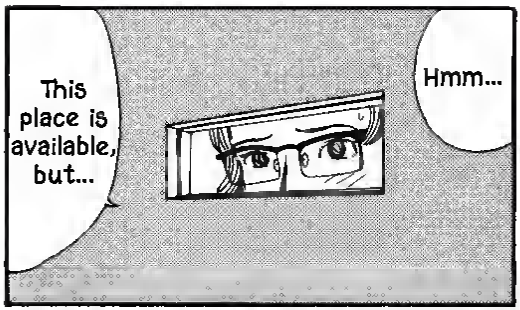

THIS IS EIKO MUSIC COLLEGE.
ELEGANT MUSIC PASSES THROUGH FRESH GREEN TREES.
HOWEVER, TODAY AS WELL, THE INTENSE BATTLES OF THE PRACTICE ROOMS CONTINUE WITHIN.

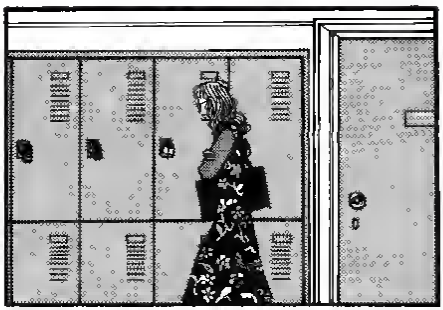
だだだっ DASH


Oh!
It's open!

Too bad.
The three of us are taking turns an hour each to practice here.

Ah.


This place is available, but...
Hmm...



The keys are dirty, too...
びくっ SHUDDER
びくっ SHUDDER
ポン PON
ポン PON...

...it's kinda filthy...

Eeek!
どたばた DASH

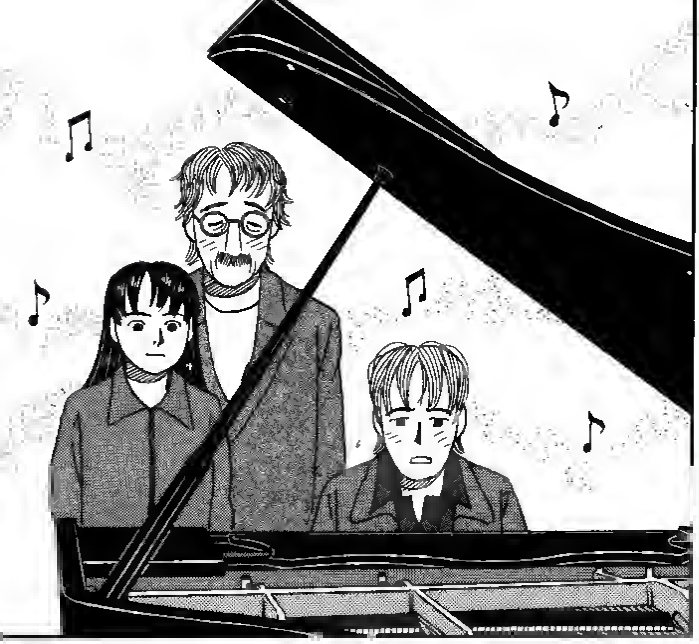
I'm living here.

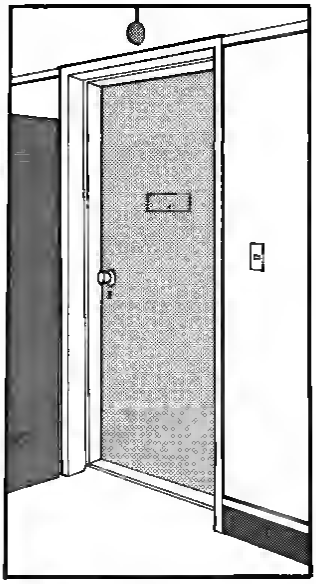
Ahhh!
GRAB
わし

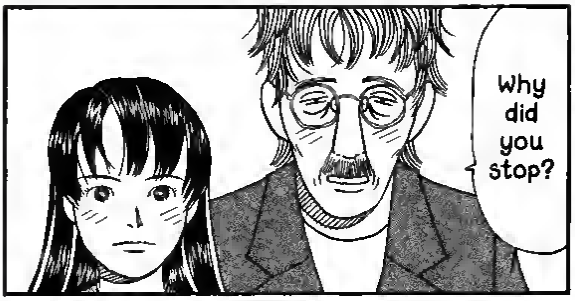
DON'T YOU HAVE A SONG YOU WANT TO SING?
PAUSE ぴた
すくっ RISES
It's free!
ぴくっ PERK
Bathroom break.

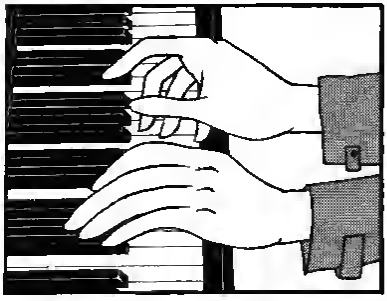
WHAT IS MY PIANO PLAYING?
I WAS MOVED BY UTA'S PIANO PLAYING AND GOT COMPLETELY INFLUENCED BY IT.
I PRETTY MUCH STARTED THE PIANO BECAUSE OF MY CRUSH ON AIHARA.
Ah.
Even if it was just a short while, the room was free!
No!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
I was using that!
FLINCH
Hey!

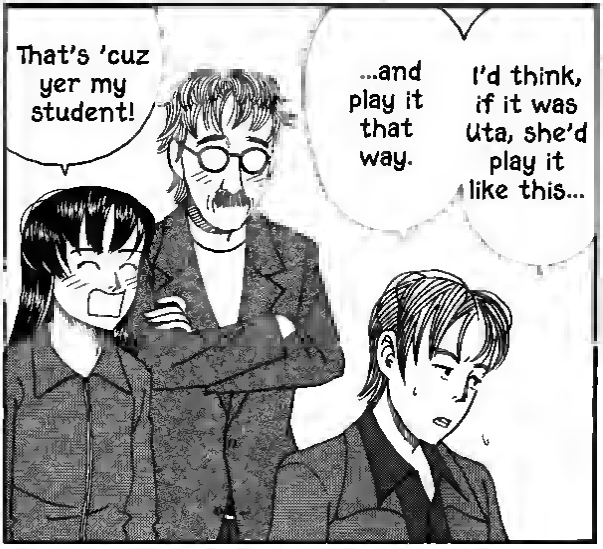
.....
If it was me, I'd hold it in for a whole day if it meant I could get a room.
You're sure casual about it.
I just went for a quick bathroom break.
FLINCH
You had better practice matching your right hand and left hand first.
So what if I am?!
That... Are you a piano minor?
Damn you!
SCRATCH
Bye.
BAM
Wh-What's that look of pity?!
I'll let you take it.






Why did you stop?

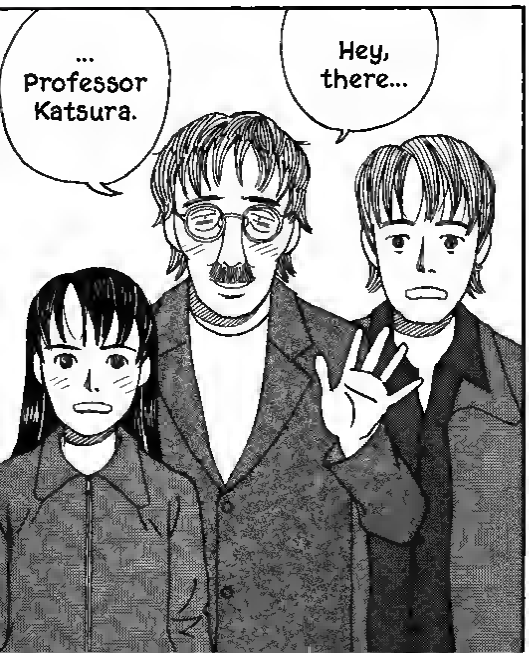



That's 'cuz yer my student!
...and play it that way.
I'd think, if it was Uta, she'd play it like this...

Uta's always in my head when I'm playing.

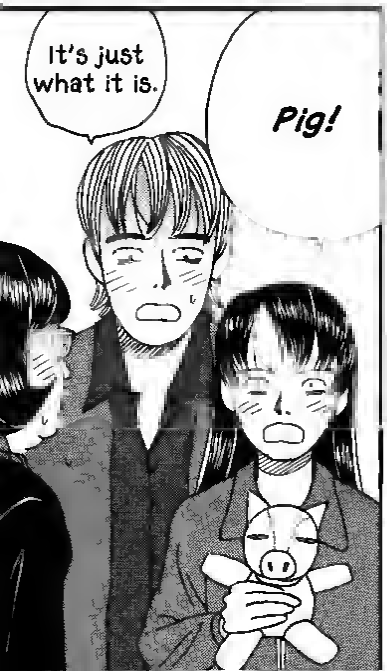
Huh?
Don't learn from me.
Same here.
Stop learning from Uta.
I'm the black sheep of the school.
Why?
....have an idea!
I...
But...
...you'll get kicked out.
If it's found out that you went over Professor Komiyama's head and are learning from me...

Piano accompaniment?
Go study piano accompaniment.
You've got a good ear.
I'll introduce you.
I have a close friend in the vocal department.

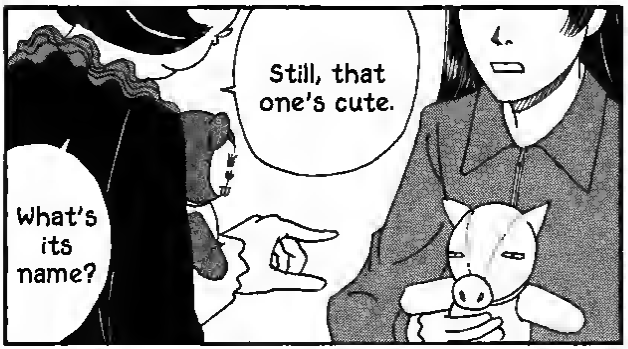

... Professor Katsura.
Hey, there...

Geez! Leaving me behind!
I got a new lover. Wah ha ha!
Dirty old man.
What're you tryin' to say?

Your complexion looks good.
Why, if it isn't Miko? I heard you've been playing the piano lately.


It's just what it is.
Pig!

I... detest this child.
Weird hag.


What's its name?
Still, that one's cute.

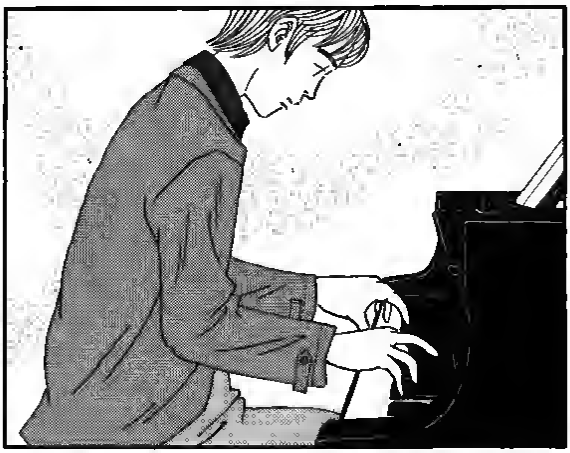
No problem! No problem!
...I suppose I can use him.
What do you think, Love?
Though his looks are only so-so...
Is it all right to leave him to you?
Is this the piano kid?
.....
I've got a date to continue.
Do your best, Wao!
Then I'll leave him to you, Katsura.
I'm full of anxiety.
Do my best, she says...

I got beaten down in my piano lesson.
SNIFF SNIFF
INHALE
Seems as if my singing is also affected after lessons.
My piano's the worst...
I'm coming in.
Ahh!
KA-CHAK
ガチャ

Didn't you say you don't have an accompanist?
Why this guy?
What's this? You two know each other?
Your attitude is terrible!
No!
I've never done accompaniment before.
... huh.
This...
Play it.
No... That's...
When you see a decent guy, your neck turns to look at him like this!

Debussy's
Starry Night.

Ah...



Not
bad.

HUH?
Good, Kanon!
Piano! A fuller sound!
ui
soupire

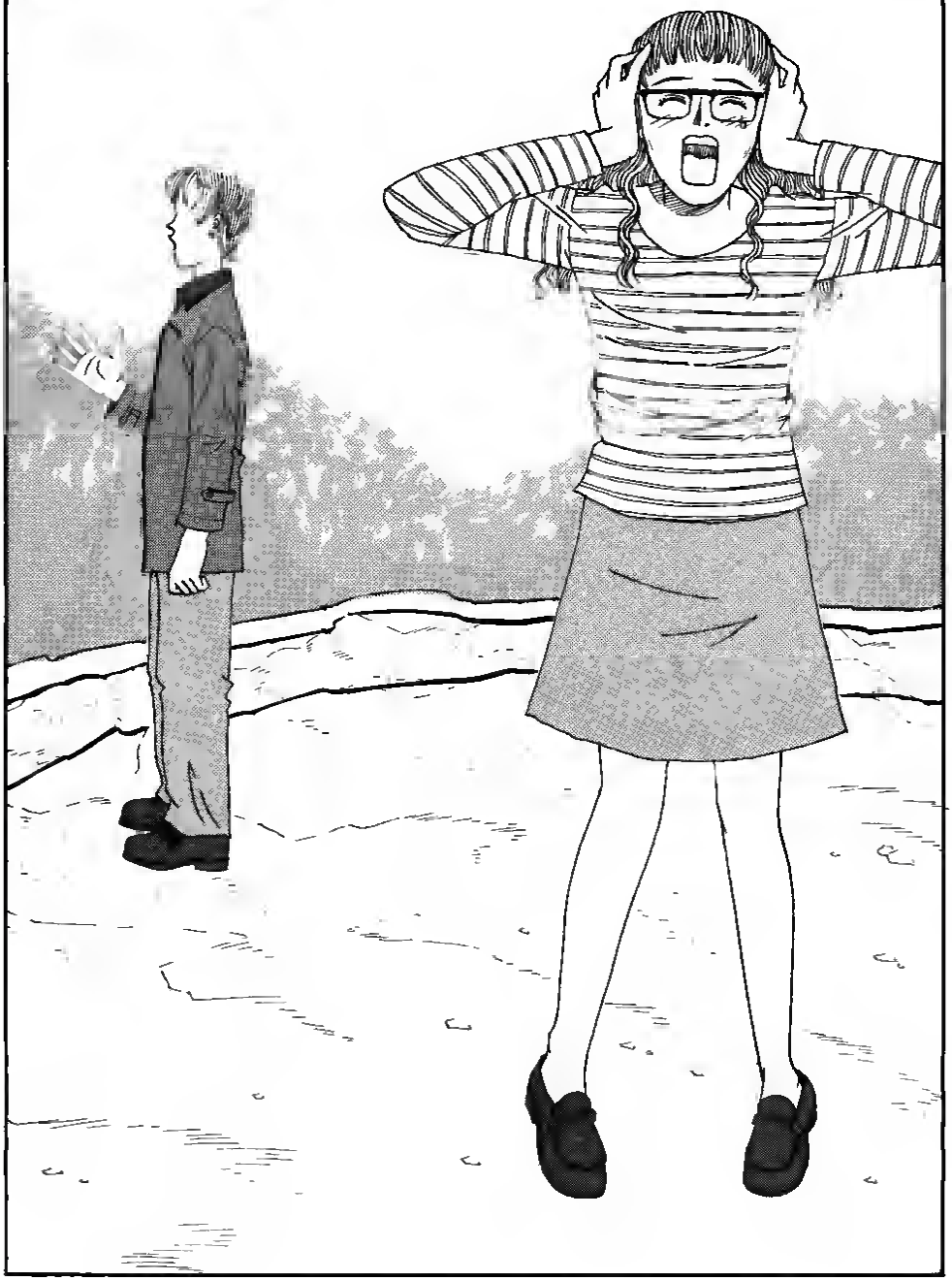
Nuit d'etoiles
Sous tes voiles

A BIT HUSKY AND SWEET.
uit
oiles
voiles
THAT'S A VOICE I HAD NEVER HEARD BEFORE.
OK! Stop there!
ポン CLAP
ポン CLAP
...A STRONG VOICE.
tes
erfums
....
PAINFUL AND FLEETING, BUT...

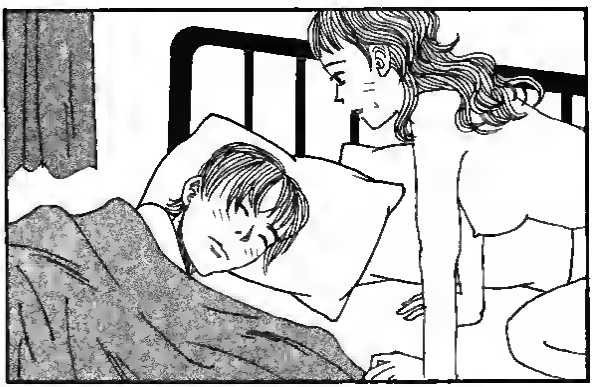
TWO THREADS INTERTWINE CLOSELY WITH EACH OTHER.
dans le brouillard
HOW STRANGE... IT'S LIKE I'M SAILING ON A BOAT.
Um... I told you to stop...
IT FEELS GOOD.
I'M EXCITED, AS IF I WERE DOING SOMETHING FORBIDDEN.
Well, Love?
What to do?
THAT...
AT THE CLIMAX...

CHAPTER 29: THE KANON SONG • END

Chapter 30 The Human Instrument Song

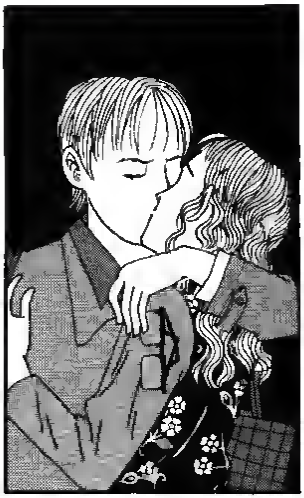


Mmm
...

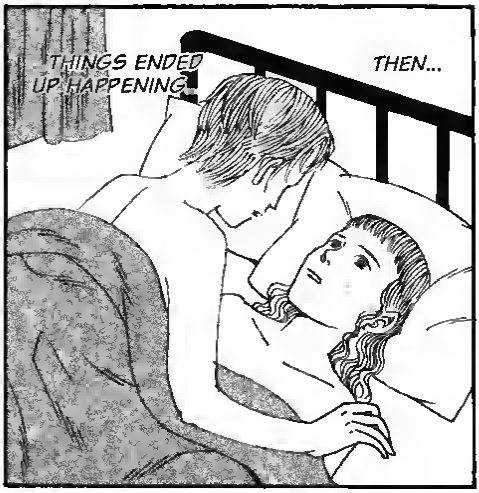


ガバッ
BOLT

よろよろよろ
BACK AWAY
びくっ
FLINCH
ドオッ
WHUMP
You OK?



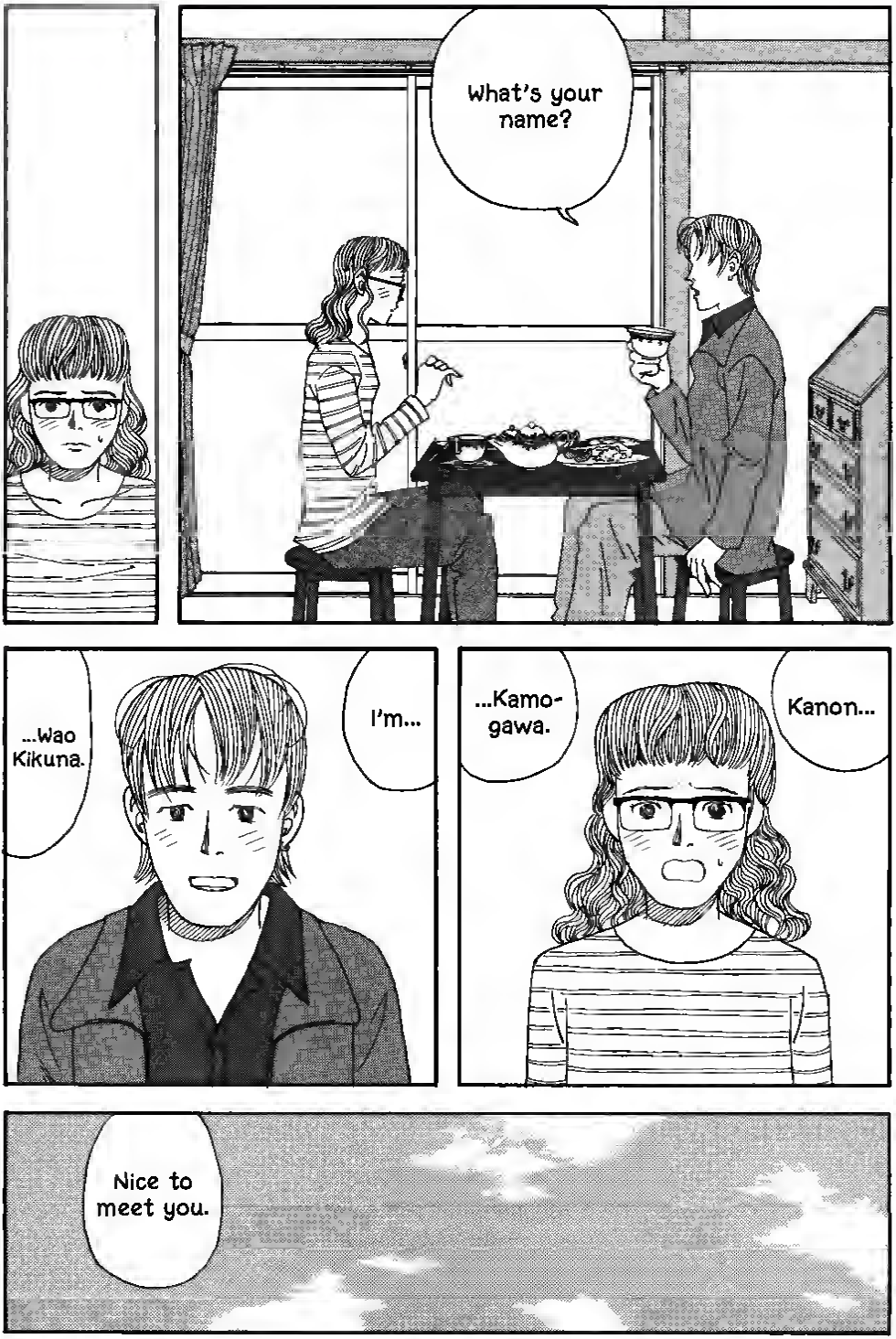
SO WE WALKED AROUND THE CITY AT NIGHT.
WE WERE IN A FEVERISH STATE "TO" THE LESSON.

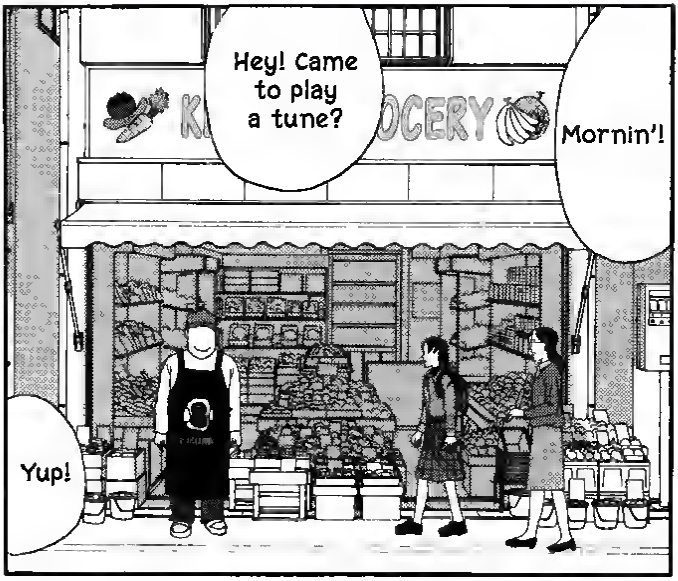

THINGS ENDED UP HAPPENING.
THEN...

ALL OF A SUDDEN, I ENDED UP AT HER APARTMENT.

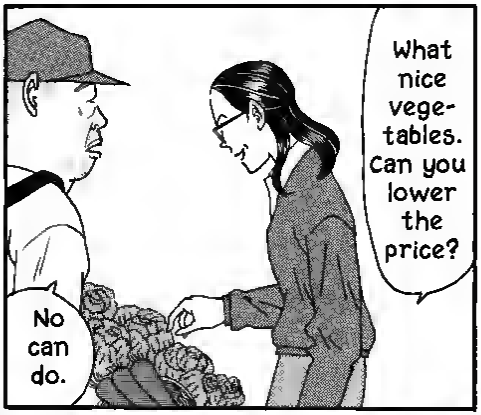
FLINCH
ビクッ
Hey.

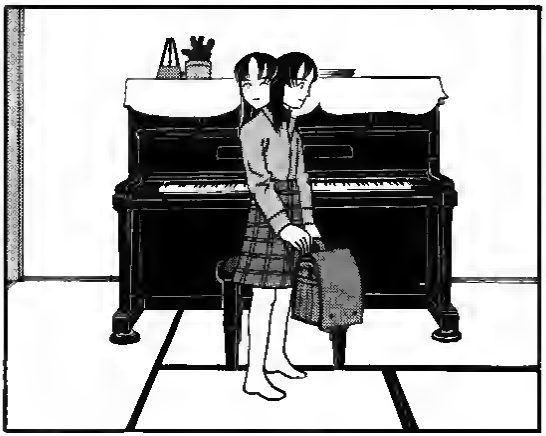
TREMBLE
びくびく
TREMBLE
CHOMP
はむっ


What's your name?
...Kamo-gawa.
Kanon...
...Wao Kikuna.
I'm...
Nice to meet you.


Hey! Came to play a tune?
Mornin'!
Yup!

...and me?
You mean you...
Aren't we friends?


What nice vege-tables. Can you lower the price?
No can do.



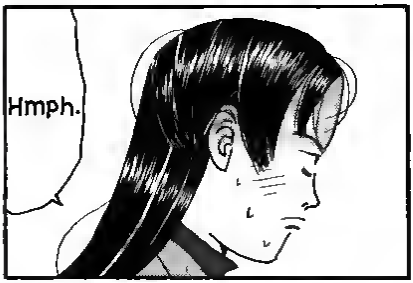
Hey, Wao!

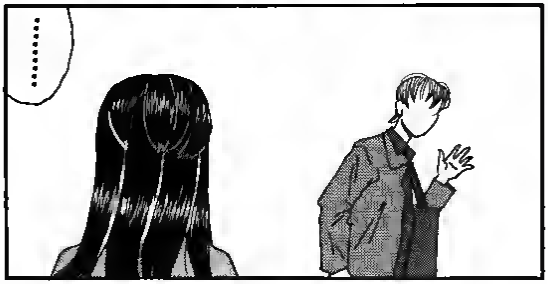
Hello?
You there?
キッパリ
FIRM
It's a woman!
That boy. He didn't come home.
He said something about staying at a friend's place.
Where's Wao, Pop?
Is that about Wao?
He's not suitable for you on every count!
Age. Appearance. Family.
KIKUNA
Ah.
Cut that out!
Cheat...
Wao wouldn't cheat on me.

Hey, Uta. Listen to this.
I wasn't playing around.
What? Enjoying the nightlife?
Hey.
Wao!
Someone who impacted me after Uta!
I had a destined meeting!
These... are vegetables from our store.
It's not much, but please take this as congratulations.
That's good!
Um... You were talking about that?
It's a woman.
Didn't I tell you?

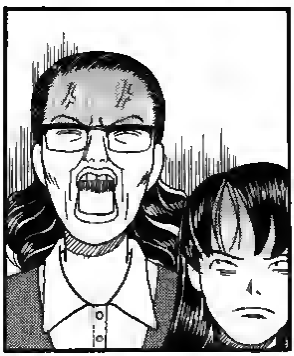
Play the piano as long as you'd like.
I'm going to school.

I'll get influenced.
I've decided not to listen to Uta's playing for a while.
KIKUNA


Hmph.

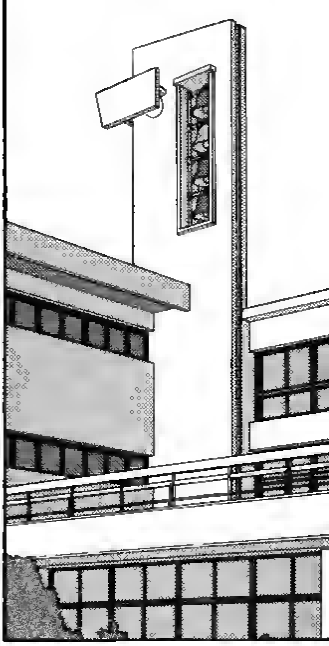

.....

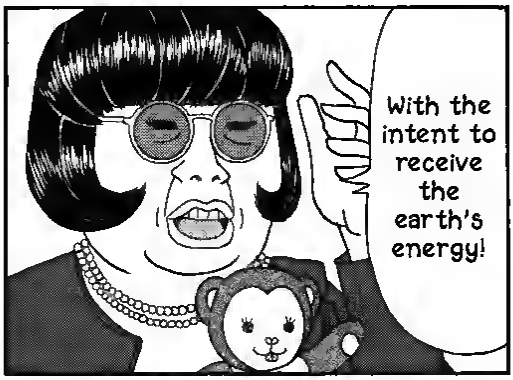
KIKUNA GROCERY

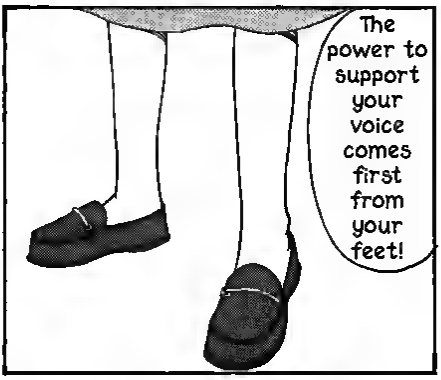


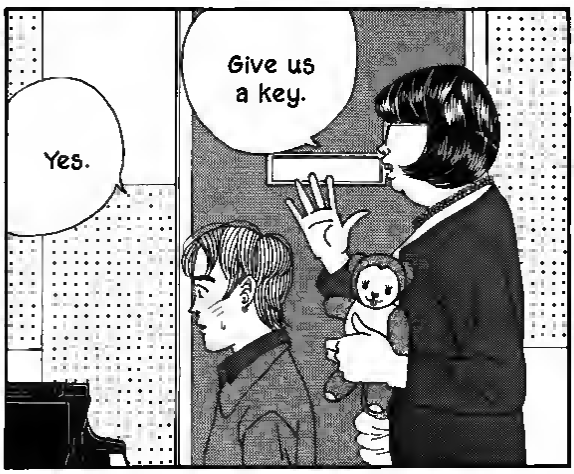
WHAM

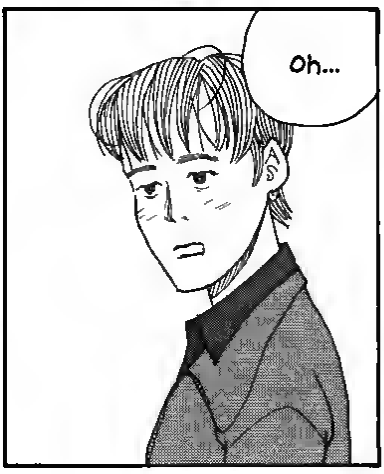
Your feet!
Are you standing properly?

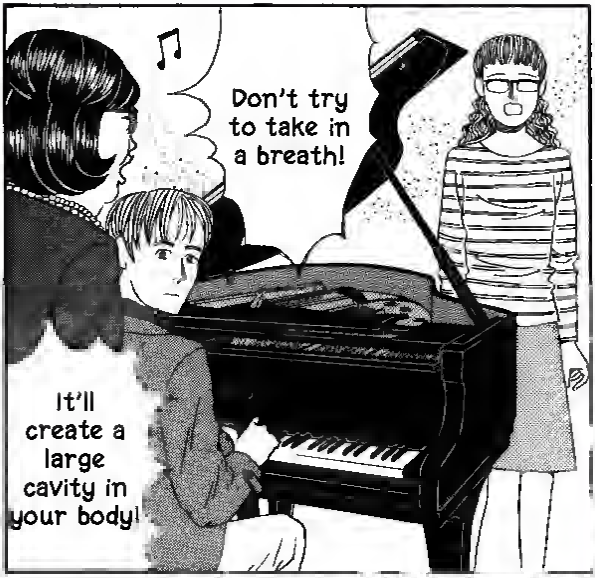



With the intent to receive the earth's energy!


The power to support your voice comes first from your feet!

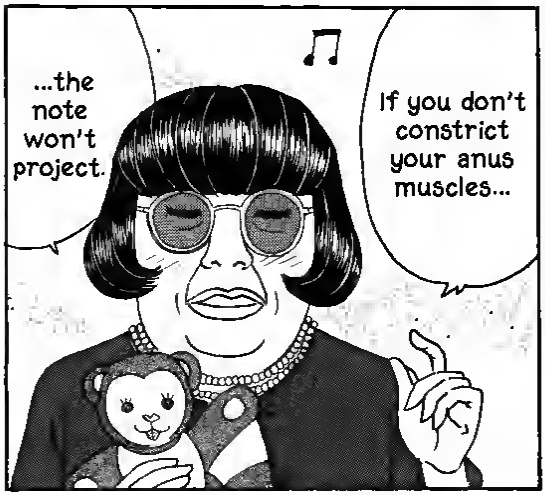

Give us a key.
Yes.

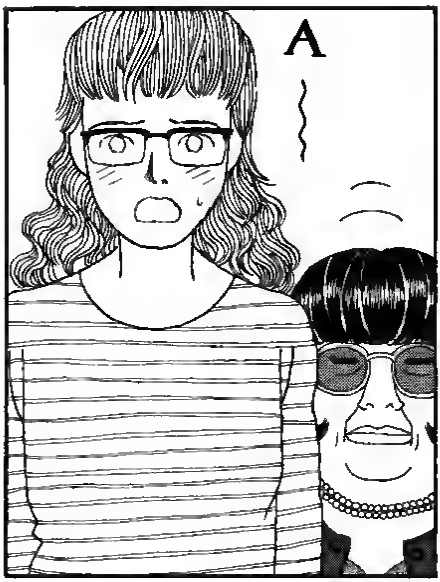

Oh...


Don't try to take in a breath!
It'll create a large cavity in your body!

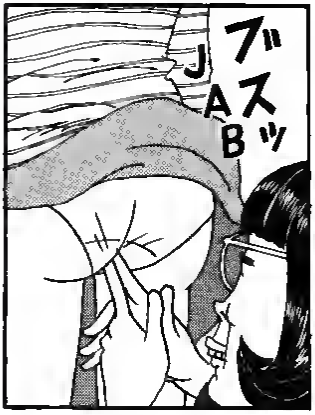
Spread your senses out more to every muscle and project your voice.

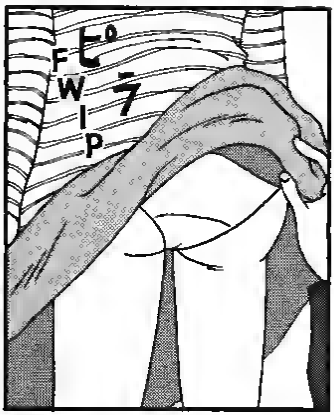
Push up your exhalation with your oblique muscles.

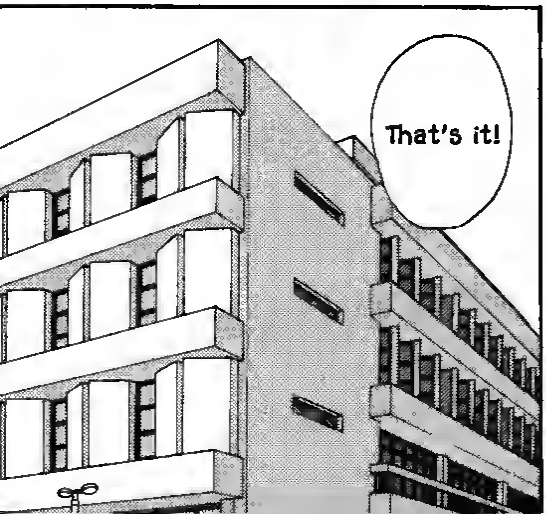

...the note won't project.
If you don't constrict your anus muscles...

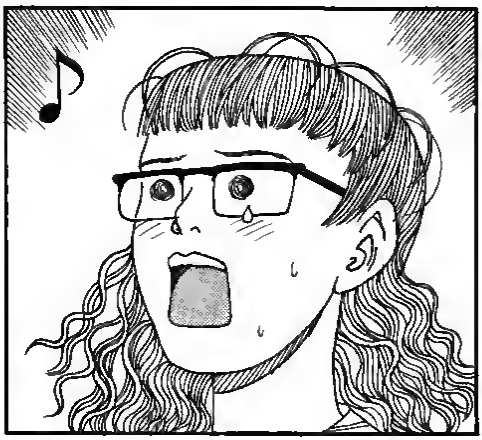

A

Give us another key.
The anus...

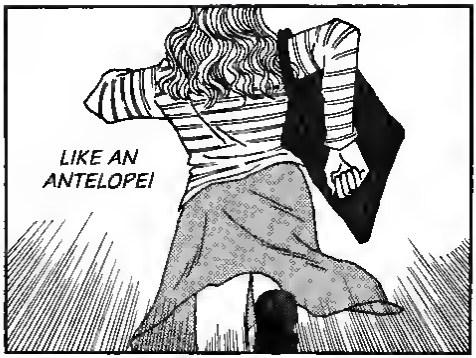

ブス
JA
Bッ

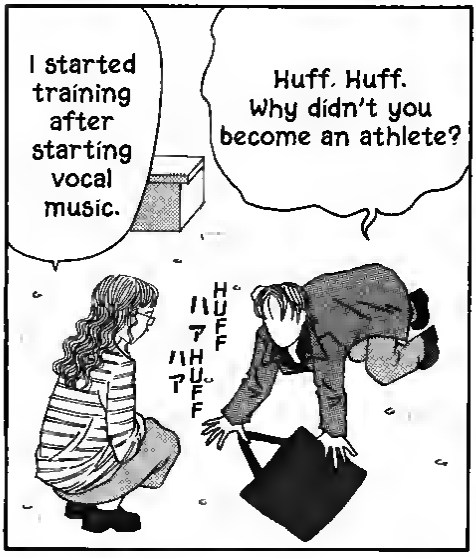

ヒ°ラ
F
W
I
P

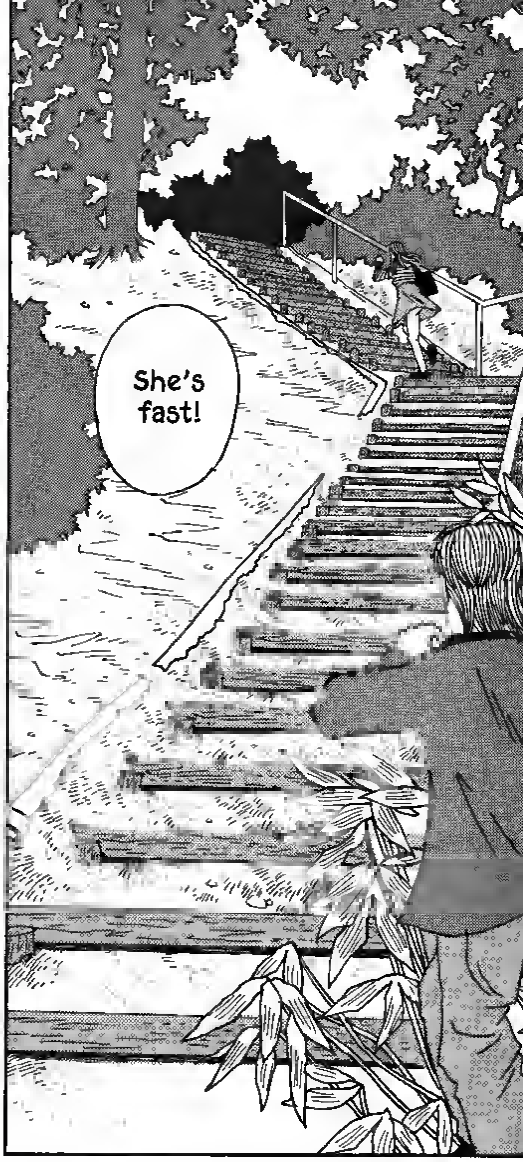

That's it!



You have to be able to do anything in vocal music.
I also have to exercise my anus muscles.
Vocal music sure is profound.
...you utilize all the muscles in your body.
When singing...
Ready? Start!
ポン CLAP
Battle ?
Hey!
Want to have a battle on these stairs?
Hey.
Huh?


LIKE AN ANTELOPE!


I started training after starting vocal music.
Huff. Huff. Why didn't you become an athlete?
HUFF HUFF
ハア ハア

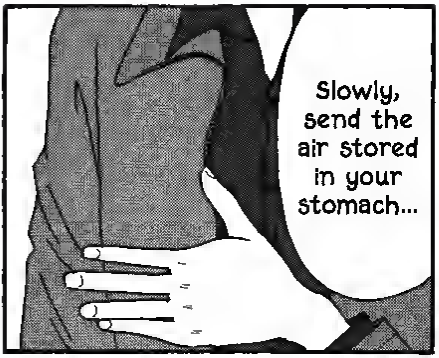

She's fast!

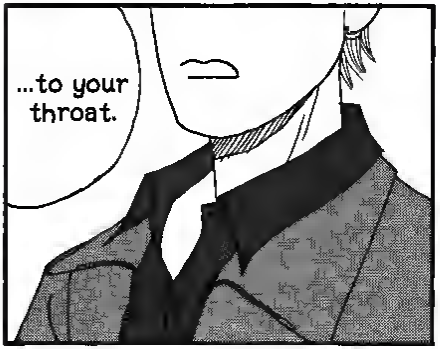
Rather than why...
Who knows?

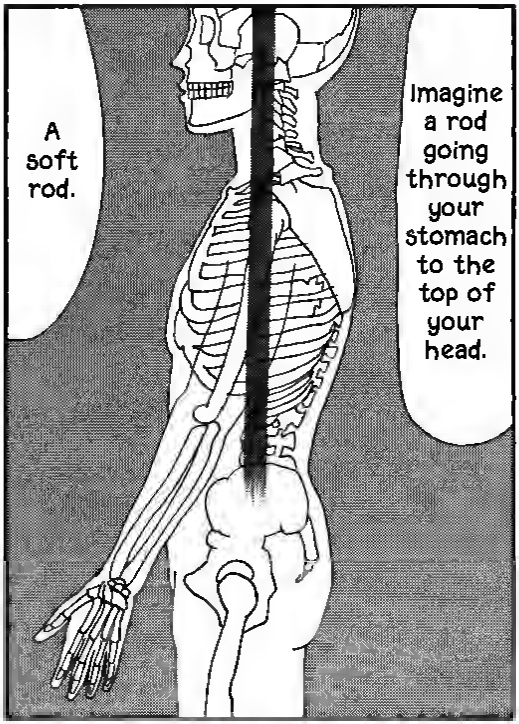
Why did you start vocal music?
HUFF HUFF
ハア ハア

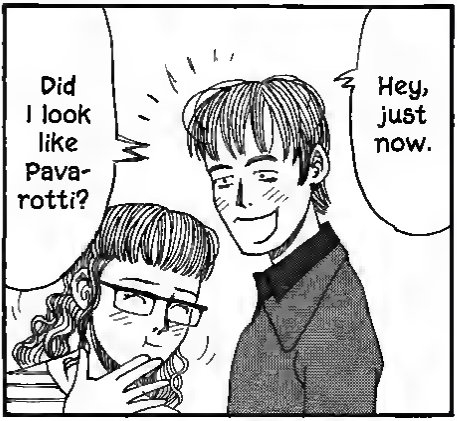
.....
...I'm an instrument.
It's because...
Yeah. It's great.
Really?
... great.
That's ...
...SO IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO USE MY BODY MORE WHEN PLAYING THE PIANO.
BUT LATELY, I LEARNED TO USE MY ELBOWS...
I first thought that piano was just a battle with my fingertips.

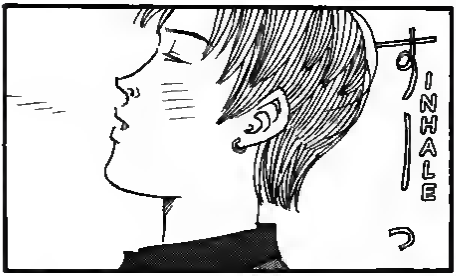
.....
Teach me to sing.
Hey.
Even when you're standing, imagine breathing air into your back.
Take a breath in that stance.
Like that.
Here will swell out.

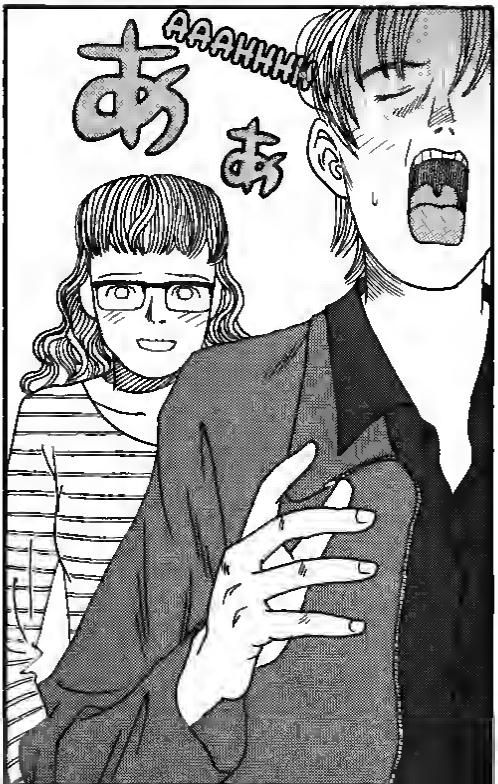

Slowly, send the air stored in your stomach...

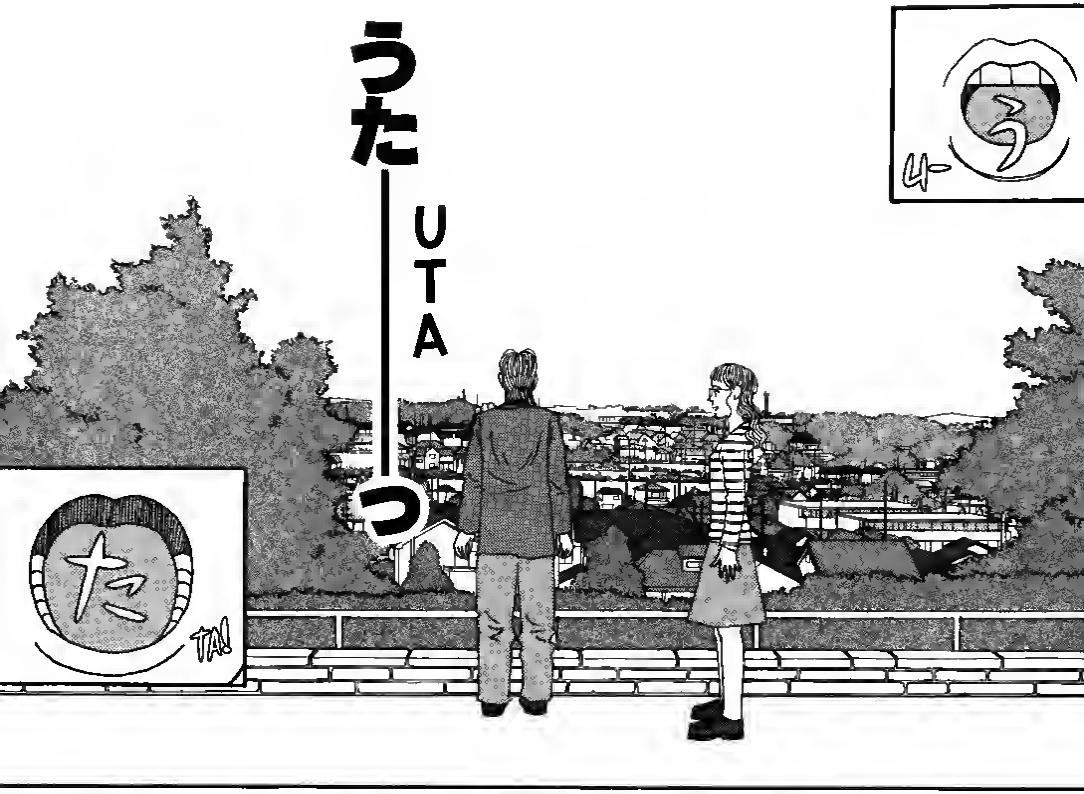

...to your throat.

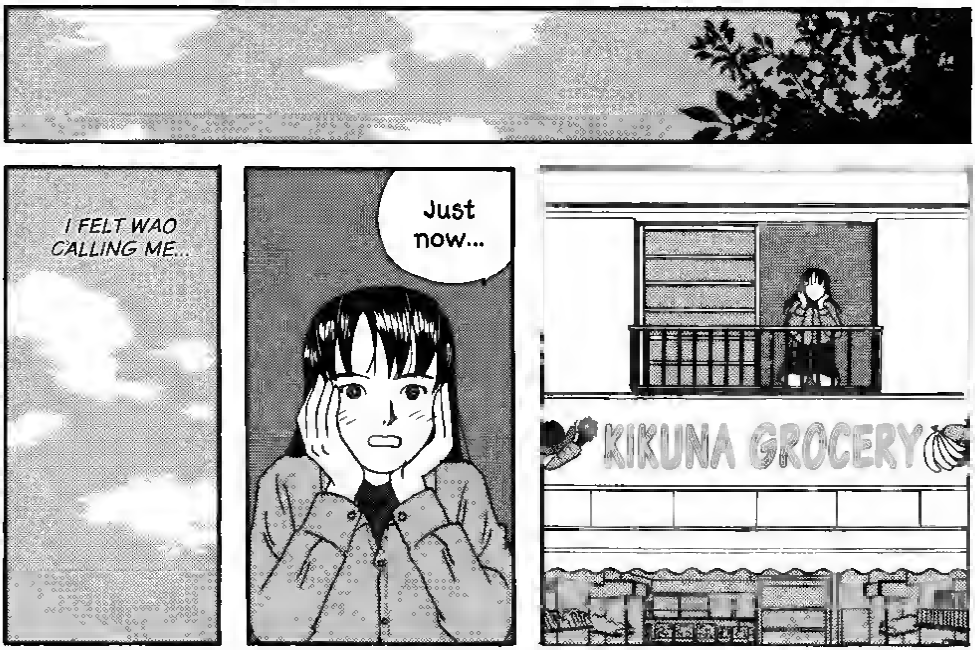

A soft rod.
Imagine a rod going through your stomach to the top of your head.


Did I look like Pava-rotti?
Hey, just now.


すー
INHALE

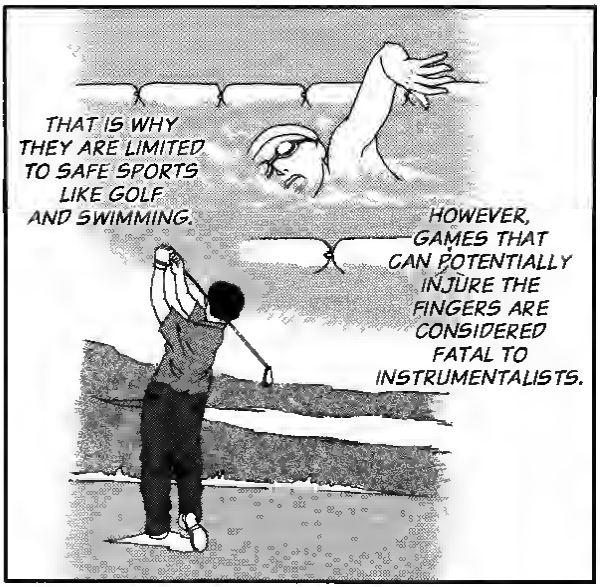

AAAHHH!
あ
あ

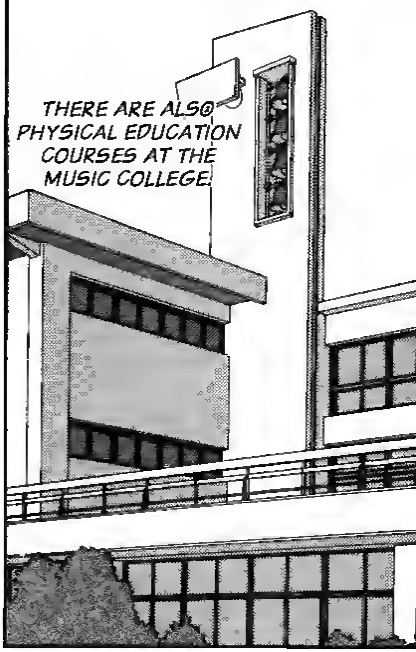




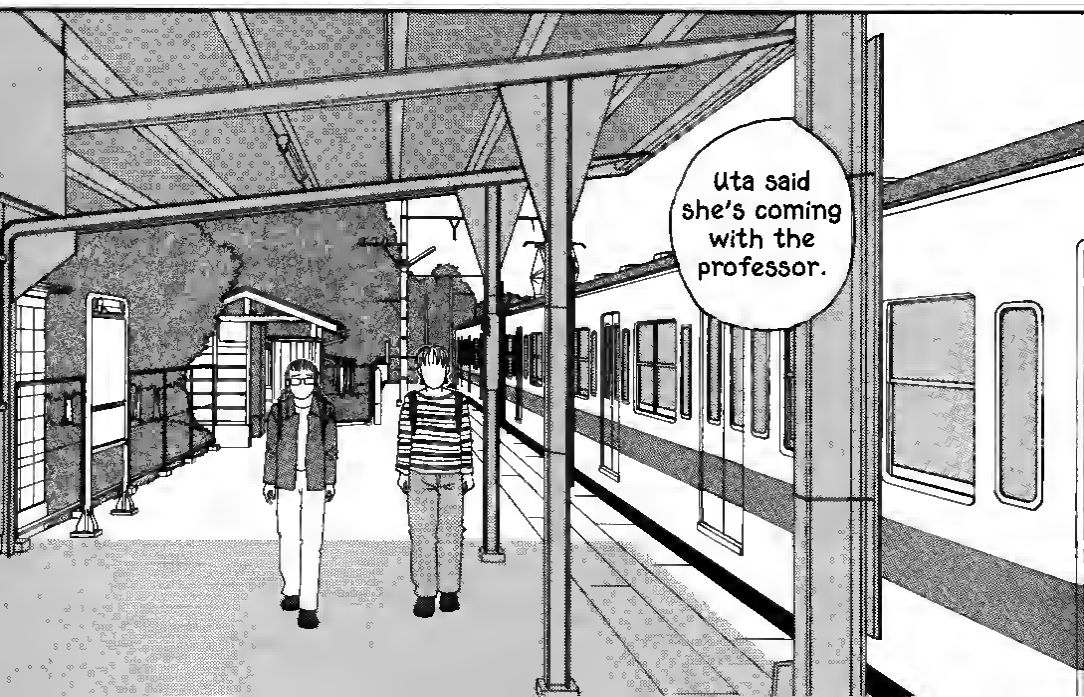
CHAPTER 30: THE HUMAN INSTRUMENT SONG • END

Chapter 31 The Father Song

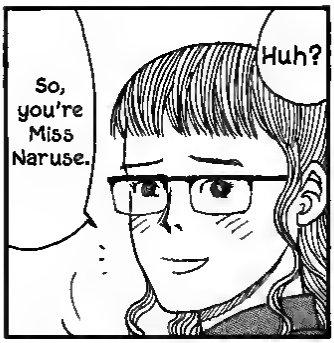

THAT IS WHY THEY ARE LIMITED TO SAFE SPORTS LIKE GOLF AND SWIMMING.
HOWEVER, GAMES THAT CAN POTENTIALLY INJURE THE FINGERS ARE CONSIDERED FATAL TO INSTRUMENTALISTS.


THERE ARE ALSO PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSES AT THE MUSIC COLLEGE!

...THE SPRING EXCURSION— STUDENTS CAN EARN UNITS JUST BY PARTICIPATING IN IT!
THE POPULAR COURSE AT EIKO MUSIC COLLEGE IS...


Uta said she's coming with the professor.

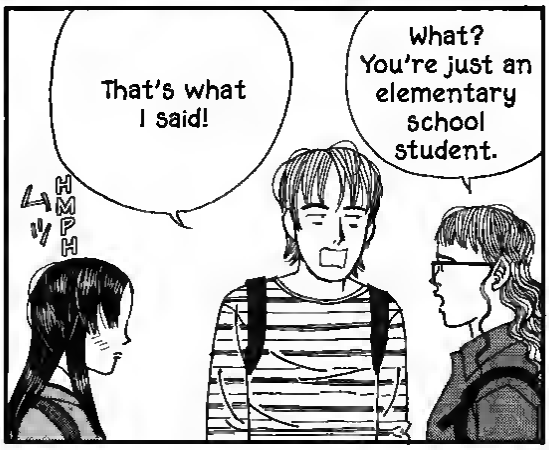
She's my teacher and savior.
Is she that important to you?
You're always talking about her.
Uta this, Uta that.
You're nearsighted, but you're not ugly or dumb.
I'm nearsighted, ugly and dumb anyway.
Um... She's an elementary school student.
So, she's more important than me?
Ah, me too...
Oohhh, the pasture is greeennnn!
白久駅
SHIROKU STATION
...can't resist singing, can they?
People in vocal studies...
おお
OOHH

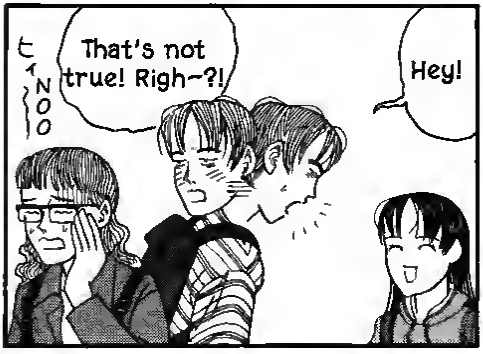

Huh?
So, you're Miss Naruse.

……

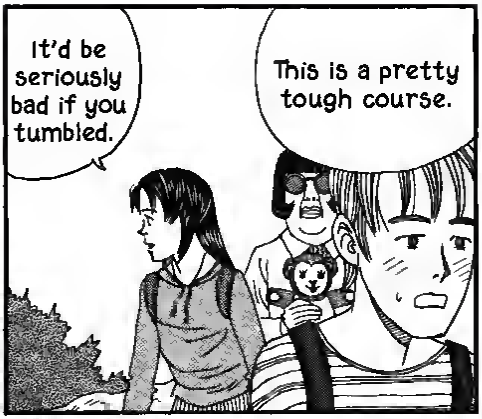
Uta!
Eek!
You dumb or something ?

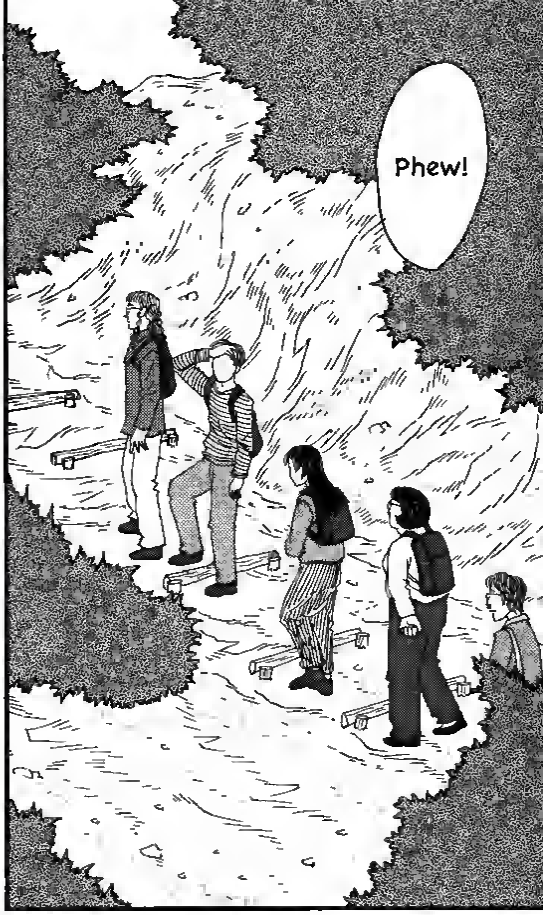
Kanon Kamogawa.
This is the talented vocalist I told you about.


That's what I said!
What? You're just an elementary school student.
HMPH


That's not true! Righ~?!
NOO
Hey!

Weirdo!


It'd be seriously bad if you tumbled.
This is a pretty tough course.

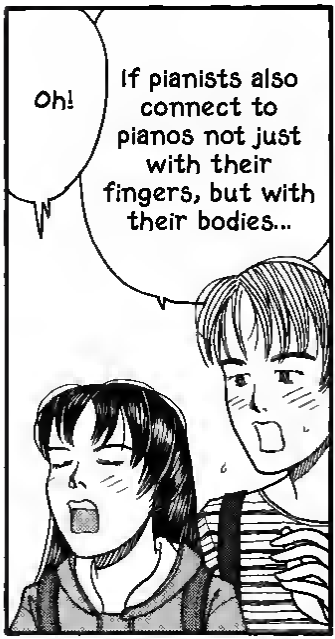

Phew!

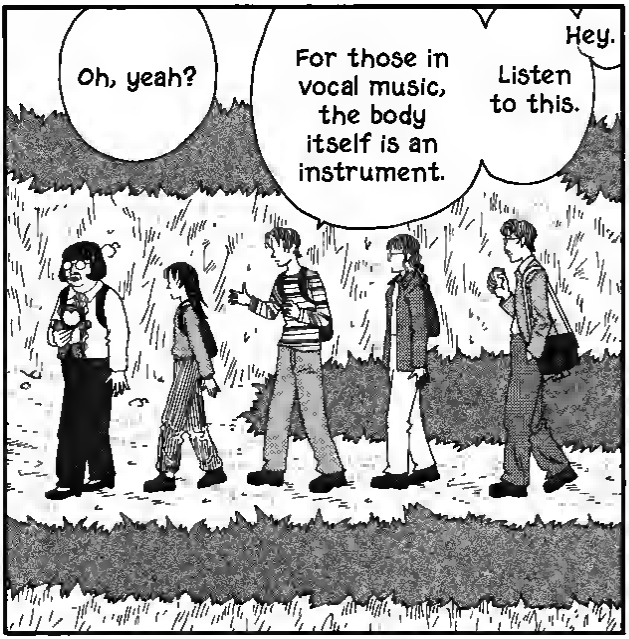
Uta said she wanted to come, but I'm glad I came.
This isn't a place to drink.

OOHHH THE PASTURE IS GREEEN!
The vocal studies people are walking too fast.
You piano people are too lax!

Stop that.
I don't care if I die in a place like this.

We'll never lose to other departments!
The kids in my class are especially well-trained.

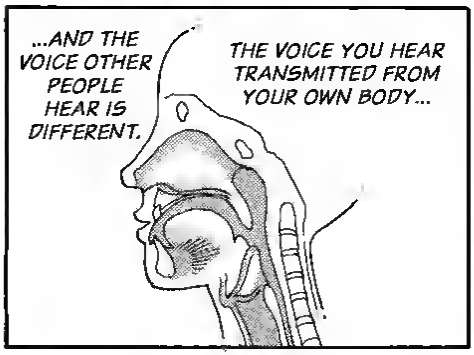

Oh!
If pianists also connect to pianos not just with their fingers, but with their bodies...


Oh, yeah?
For those in vocal music, the body itself is an instrument.
Hey. Listen to this.

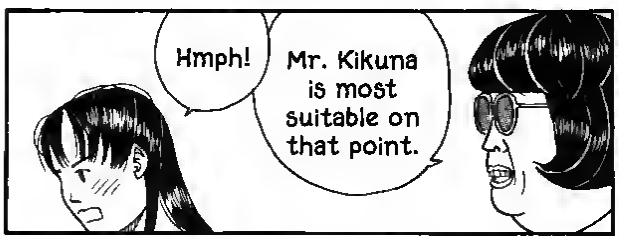
...hit the bull's-eye!
Miko telling you to study piano accompaniment...

Good for you.
Are you seriously listening?!
Hey!

Vocal music requires a good teacher and partner.


...AND THE VOICE OTHER PEOPLE HEAR IS DIFFERENT.
THE VOICE YOU HEAR TRANSMITTED FROM YOUR OWN BODY...

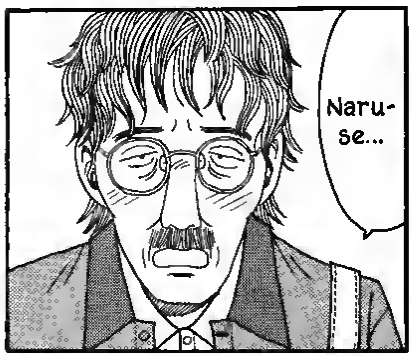
WHEN YOU LISTEN TO YOUR VOICE RECORDED ON A TAPE RECORDER, IT SOUNDS LIKE IT'S NOT YOUR OWN VOICE, RIGHT?
WALKMAN

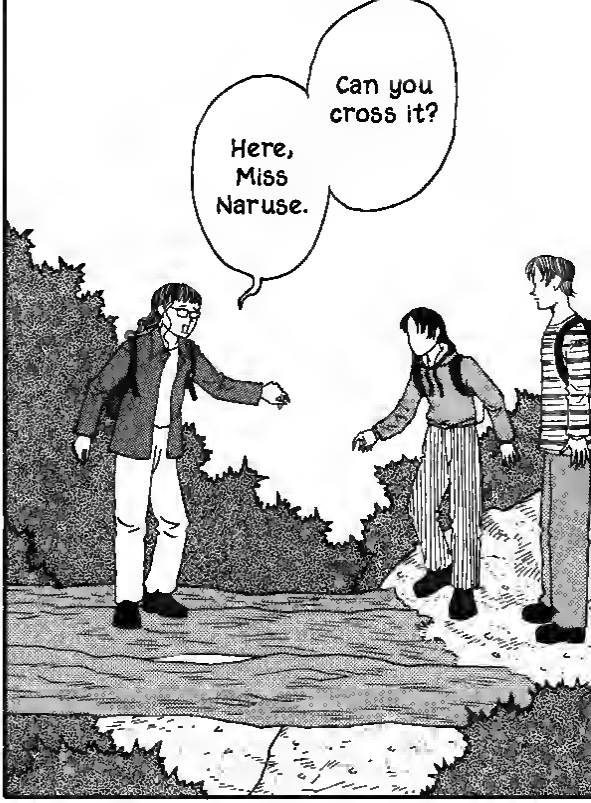

Hmph!
Mr. Kikuna is most suitable on that point.

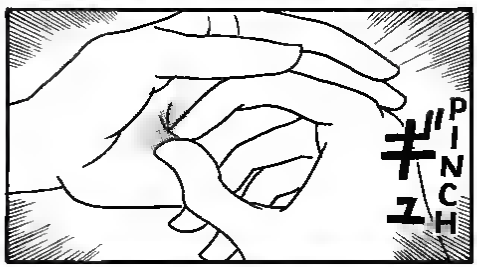
That's why there's always a need to have your voice checked by the sharp ears of a third party in vocal music.

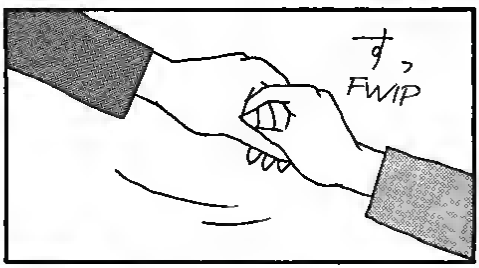
They suit each other perfectly.
His piano is also excellent!
Gahh!
PATOOEY!

.....
Just call her Uta.


Naru-se...


Here, Miss Naruse.
Can you cross it?


PINCH

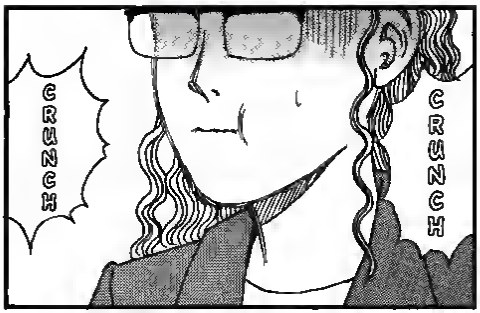

FWIP

Sh-She pinched me!
What happened?
I didn't do anything.

Yikes!
PINCH

Naru-se...
Didn't I tell you?
What the-? It's me!
Naruse...
Who's Naruse?
Huh?!
You just noticed?
Yeah.
Naruse... As in Koichiro Naruse?
Naru-se...
Geez!
I told you not to drink so much!
Naruse... Naruse...
SLIP

Let's eat.
Ah!
コロリ ROLL ROLL コロリ
にSMIRK
Th-Then ...
I'll give you my rolled egg.
Hey, Kanon!
Let's share lunch!
Sure!

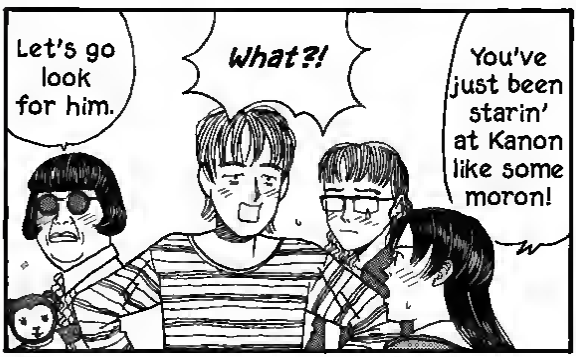

CRUNCH
CRUNCH

CHOMP
ばくっ…

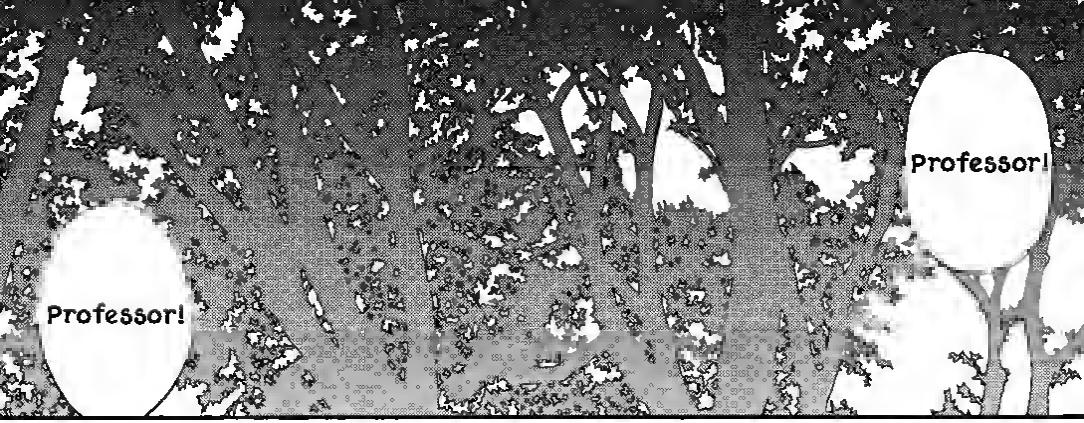
Uta!
Erk!

…that this course might be dangerous for the professor…
I was thinking…

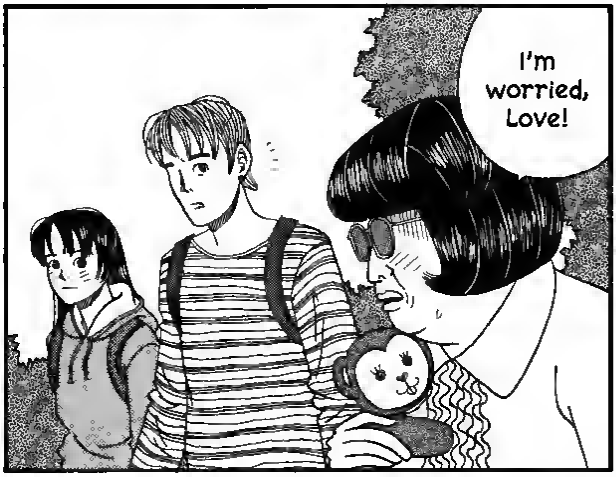
Huh?
Have you seen Mikoshiba?
Hey.

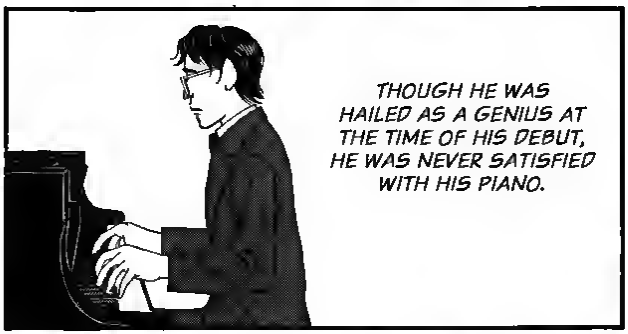

Let's go look for him.
What?!
You've just been starin' at Kanon like some moron!

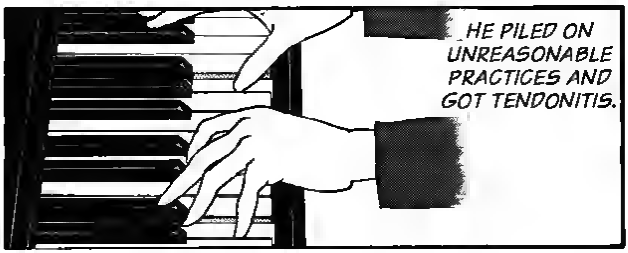
Right back at you!
Hey, Uta. Why'd you take your eyes off him?


Professor!
Professor!

After meeting Uta, he drank less and started playing the piano again. I was relieved.

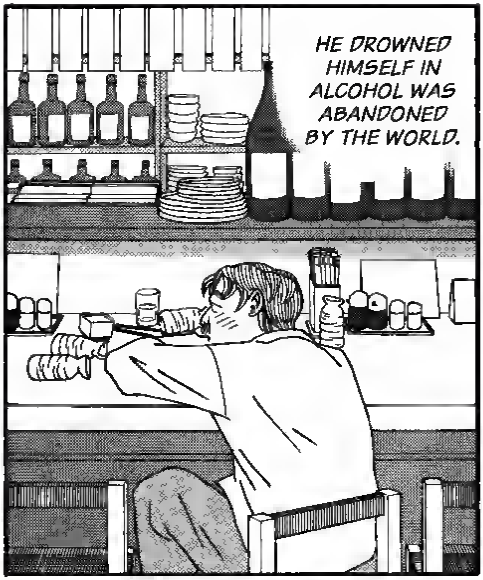

I'm worried, Love!


THOUGH HE WAS HAILED AS A GENIUS AT THE TIME OF HIS DEBUT, HE WAS NEVER SATISFIED WITH HIS PIANO.


HE PILED ON UNREASONABLE PRACTICES AND GOT TENDONITIS.

Professor Mikoshiba was obsessed by the perfect sound.

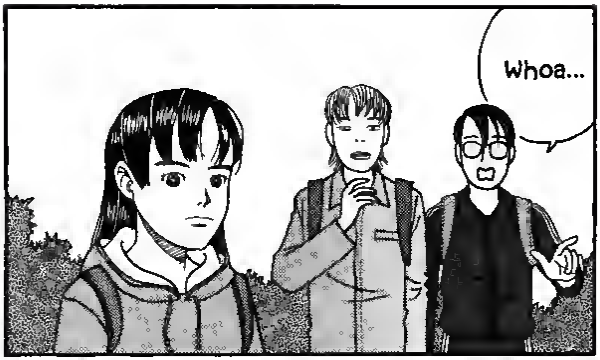
THERE WAS ALSO A TIME HE TRIED TO DROWN HIMSELF.
What ?!

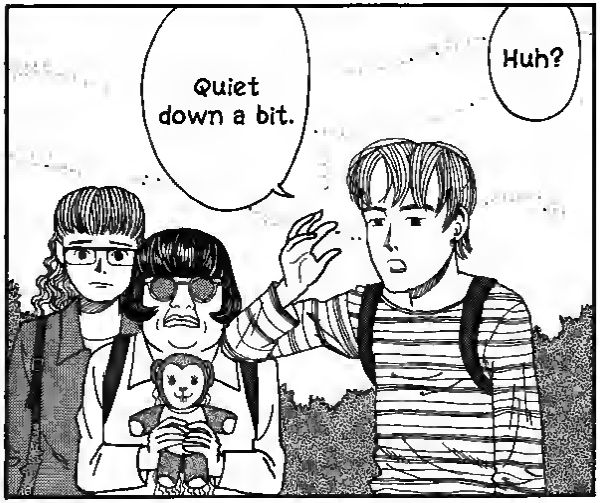

HE DROWNED HIMSELF IN ALCOHOL WAS ABANDONED BY THE WORLD.

We'll search over here!
A-Anyway, I'm gonna look over there.

They're harmo-nizing!
PROFESSOR!

It's getting dark.
Profes-sor!
Profes-sor!


Whoa...


Huh?
Quiet down a bit.

Some-one's moan-ing...

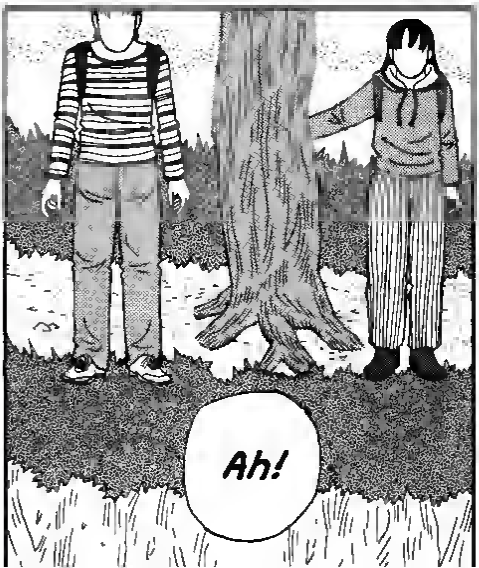
教授
PROFESSOR

Yeah!
Hey, Uta!
Hear it?

We couldn't tell.
He has got amazing hearing.

The professor could be seriously injured.
What to do, Love?

Walk straight towards the direction of the voice.
I'll do the same.
OK.

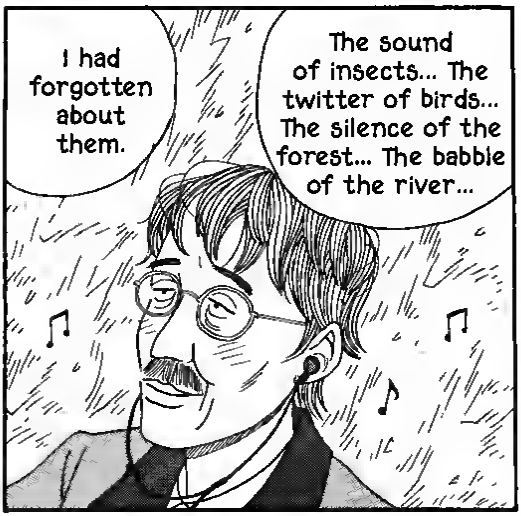

Ah!

Over there?

♬ Hm! Hm!
Hm! ♬

IT WASN'T MOANING, BUT HUMMING!!
Hm. Hmmm!

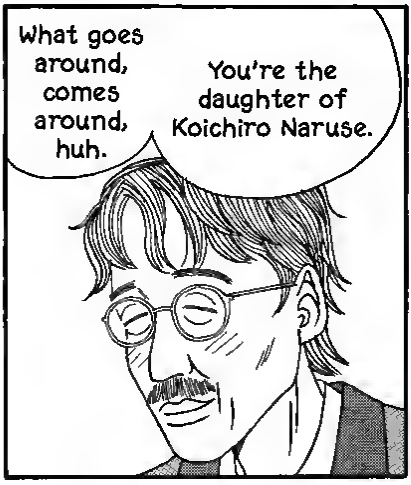
ぐびっ GULP

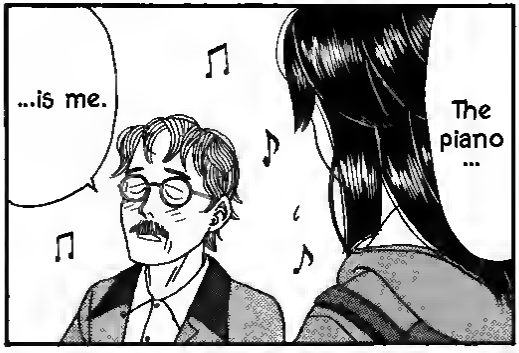

I had forgotten about them.
The sound of insects... The twitter of birds... The silence of the forest... The babble of the river...

You had us worried!
What the hell're you actin' all happy-go-lucky 'bout?!

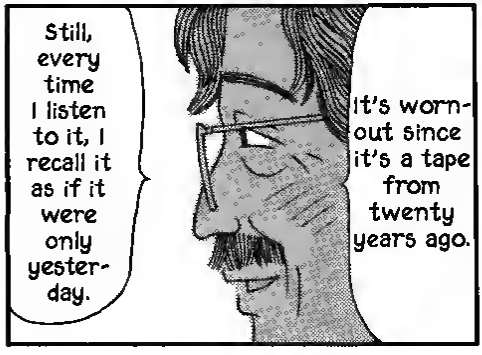
Bartok
...

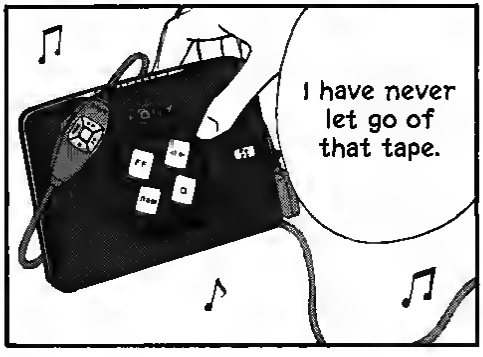
...jammed in the third concerto by Bartok.
The entire universe...


What goes around, comes around, huh.
You're the daughter of Koichiro Naruse.


...is me.
The piano ...

This is my father's conducting!

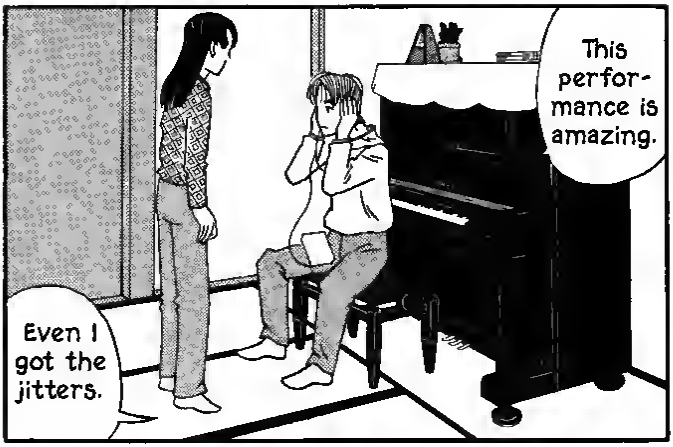

Still, every time I listen to it, I recall it as if it were only yesterday.
It's worn-out since it's a tape from twenty years ago.


I have never let go of that tape.

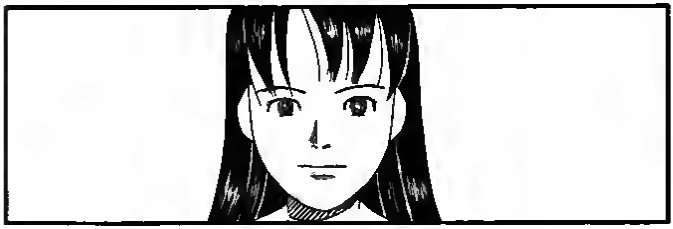
IT WAS THE PERFECT CO-PIANO PERFORMANCE. EVERYTHING CAME TOGETHER AND I WAS ABLE TO PRODUCE THE SOUND OF THE HEAVENS FOR THE FIRST TIME.
At that time, I definitely...
... produced the perfect sound.
THAT'S SUTA'S SOUND!
THE SOUND OF THE HEAVENS!
Uta, you...
...gave me the power to seek that sound again.
I...
...won't die.

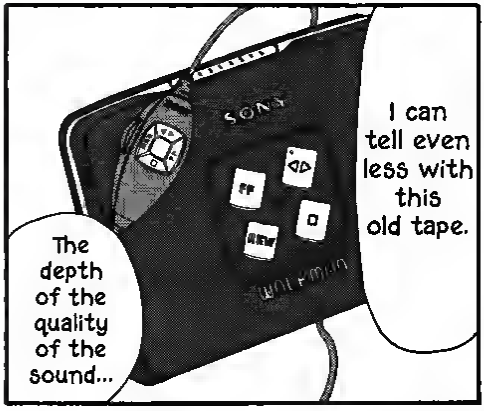
CHAPTER 31: THE FATHER SONG • END

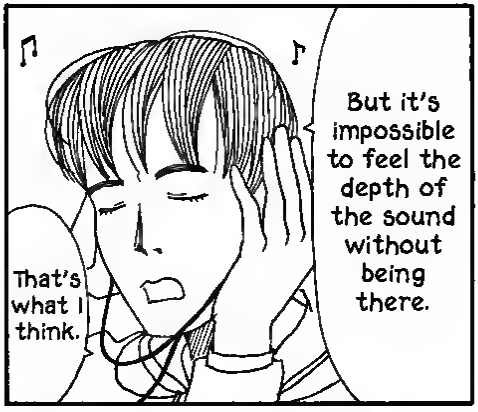
Chapter 32 The Perfect Song

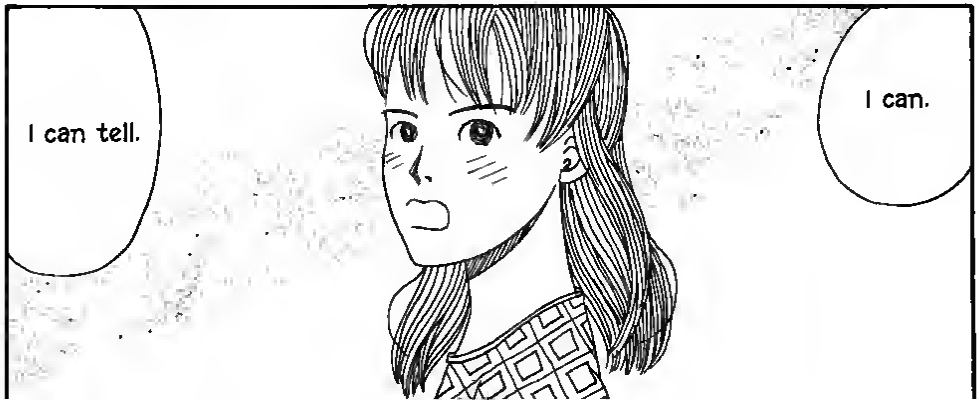

This performance is amazing.
Even I got the jitters.

The sound of the heavens, huh.
KIKUNA GROCERY

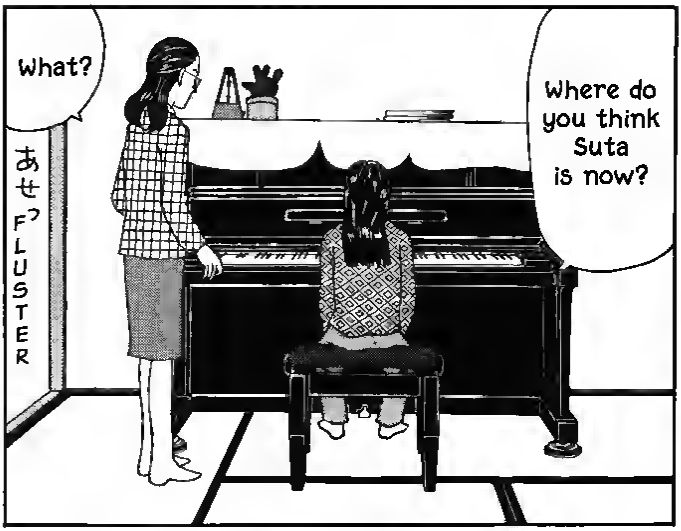



SONY
I can tell even less with this old tape.
The depth of the quality of the sound...

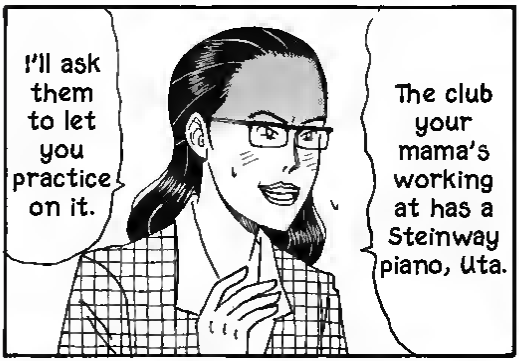

But it's impossible to feel the depth of the sound without being there.
That's what I think.


I can tell.
I can.

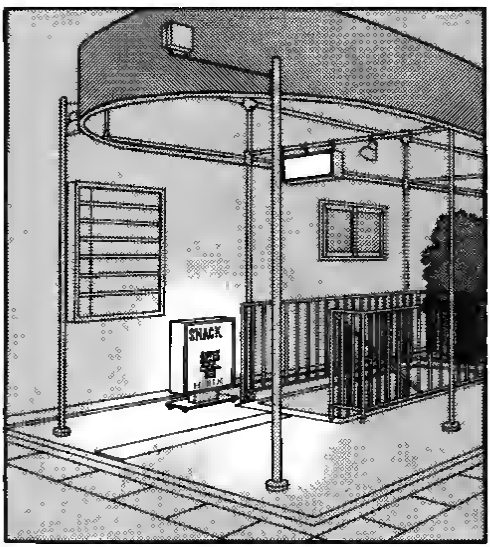
...that she herself is an instrument.
Kanon says...
...has a nice voice, right?
Kanon ...
I am a piano!
I also want to be able to say that.
Looks like he's completely smitten with his new girlfriend.
Oh ho ho!
.....
Take your time.


What?
あせっ FLUSTER
Where do you think Suta is now?

Mama...

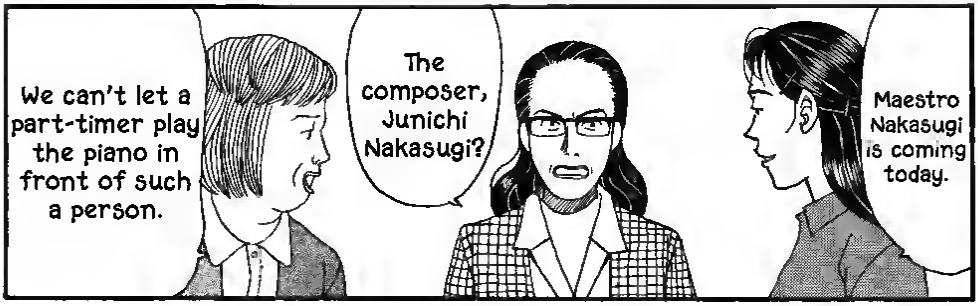

I'll ask them to let you practice on it.
The club your mama's working at has a Steinway piano, Uta.

... I can't get close to that sound!
No matter how much I practice on this piano...

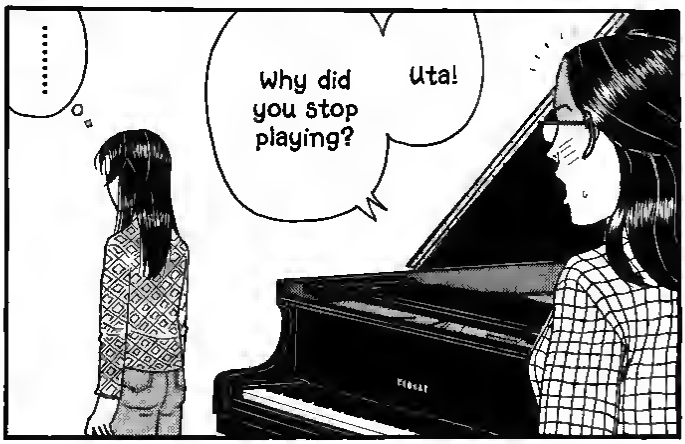
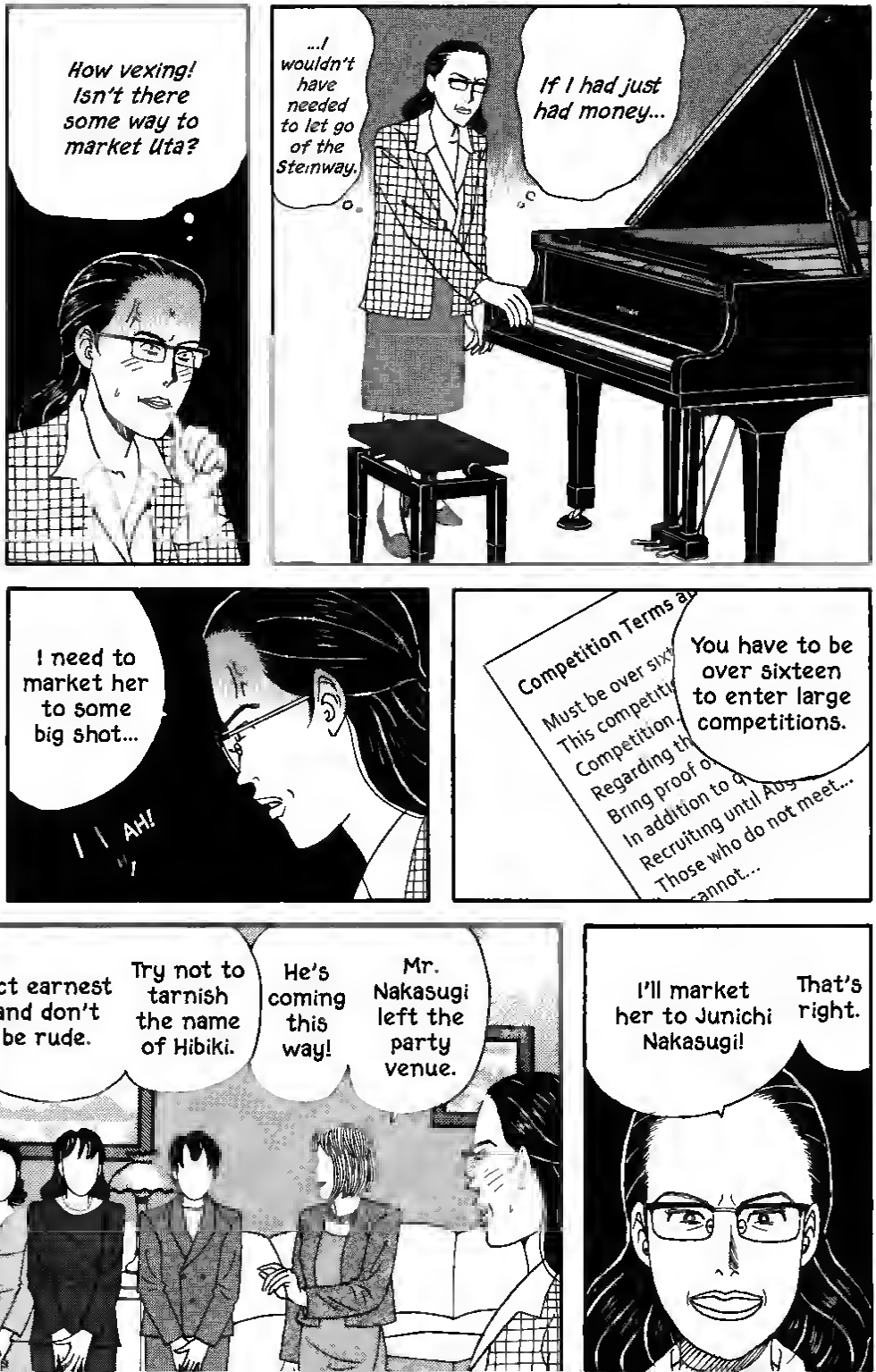

SNACK

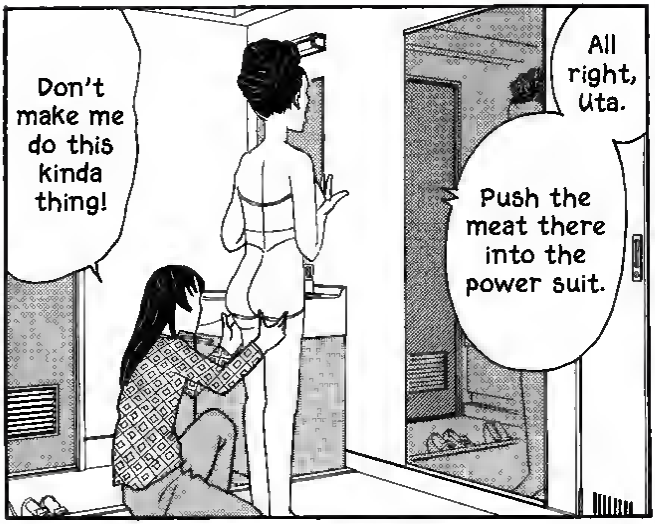
That piano player won't be coming in today so she can practice until the club opens.
Why is that?

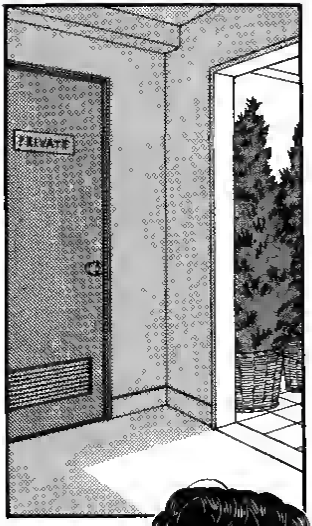
Of course!
She's way better than the part-time piano player!
Amaz-ing!

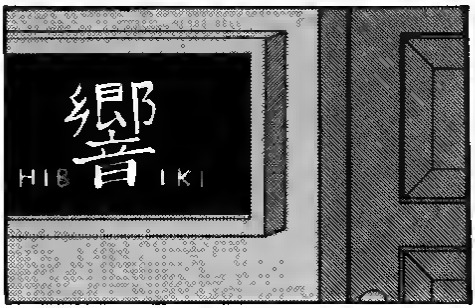

We can't let a part-timer play the piano in front of such a person.
The composer, Junichi Nakasugi?
Maestro Nakasugi is coming today.

I'll forget *that sound* if I play on nothing but useless pianos.


.....
Why did you stop playing?
Uta!

How vexing! Isn't there some way to market Uta?
...I wouldn't have needed to let go of the Steinway.
If I had just had money...
I need to market her to some big shot...
AH!
Competition Terms a
You have to be over sixteen to enter large competitions.
Act earnest and don't be rude.
Try not to tarnish the name of Hibiki.
He's coming this way!
Mr. Nakasugi left the party venue.
I'll market her to Junichi Nakasugi!
That's right.


Don't make me do this kinda thing!
All right, Uta.
Push the meat there into the power suit.


PRIVATE


HIBIKI

I wonder if I'll appear as if I'm in my twenties in dark lighting.
What're you thinkin', Mama?

Welcome!

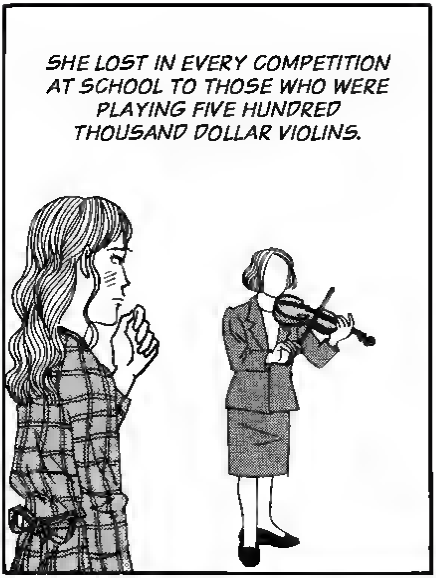
...has a reputation among those involved in music.
I heard this club...
I...
I...
Hm?
Ugh...
What's wrong?
TH-THUMP
...I'm so happy!
To be able to meet you...

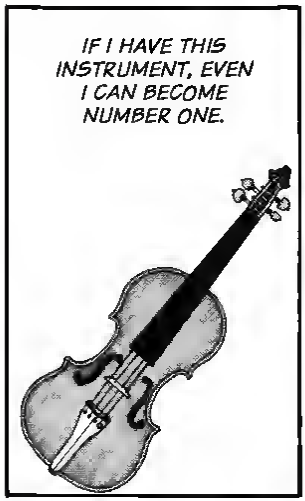
NOD
You seem to retain a shadow of misfortune.
You...
...God gives you a reward.
If you live for thirty... I mean, twenty years...
Every day, I was worked like a horse.
My parents passed away when I was young and I was taken in by a cold and uncaring uncle.
I GOT DOWN ON MY KNEES AND GROVELED TO MY UNCLE.
I'VE BEEN WORKING TWICE AS HARD BECAUSE I WANT TO LET HER STUDY THE PIANO.
MY SOLE EMOTIONAL SUPPORT WAS MY DAUGHTER'S... NO, MY SISTER'S PIANO.

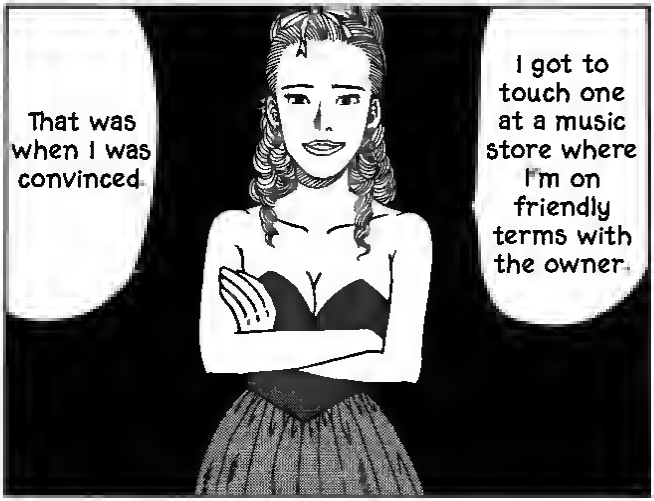
I'd do anything ...
GULP!
If I can grant my sister's wish...
To become a concert pianist...
WHAT?!
We're holding various pianist auditions.
I *am* looking for a concerto pianist.
Well, to be honest...
SNAP
SMILE
Look this way!
OK!

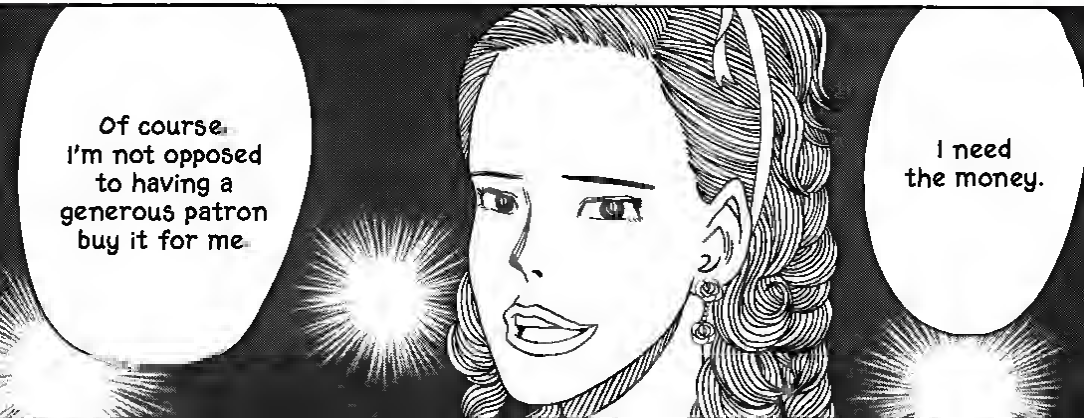
There's no ice, Auntie!
.....
Auntie?!
CHUCKLE ウィーン
! instinctively...!
Shoot!
WHIRR クス
I'm your biggest fan, Maestro!
You...
...are quite attentive, aren't you?
PUSH ぴと
Eek!
HEY!
More ice, please!
BOUNCE むにゅ
She started serving drinks in order to get a violin.
She's quite a go-getter.
She's a violin major at Kunitake Music College.
You mean, Kaori?
The nerve! What is with that girl?

AH
That is what I am working for.
Guarnerius del Gesu. One point five million dollars at market price.

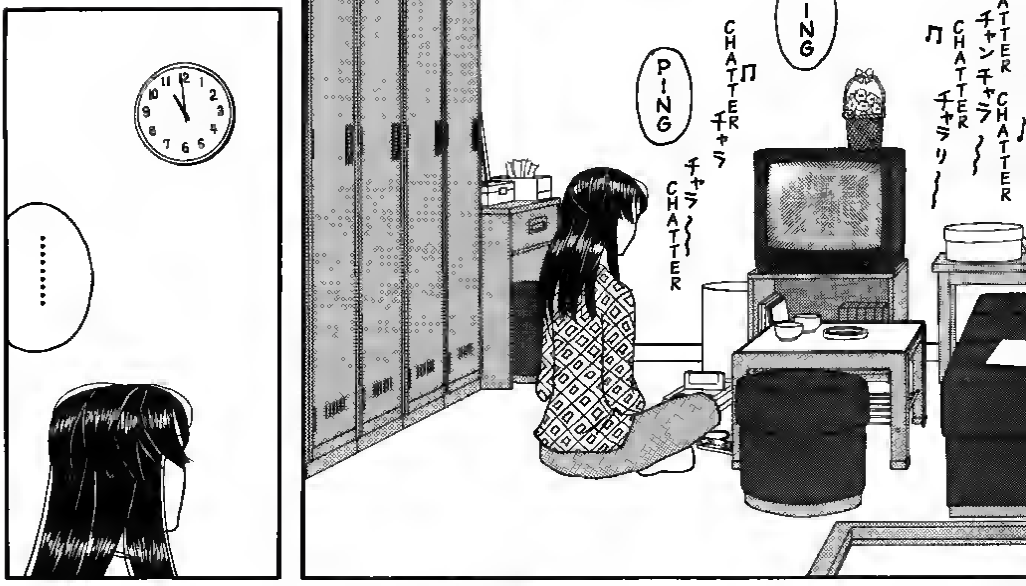

SHE LOST IN EVERY COMPETITION AT SCHOOL TO THOSE WHO WERE PLAYING FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLAR VIOLINS.

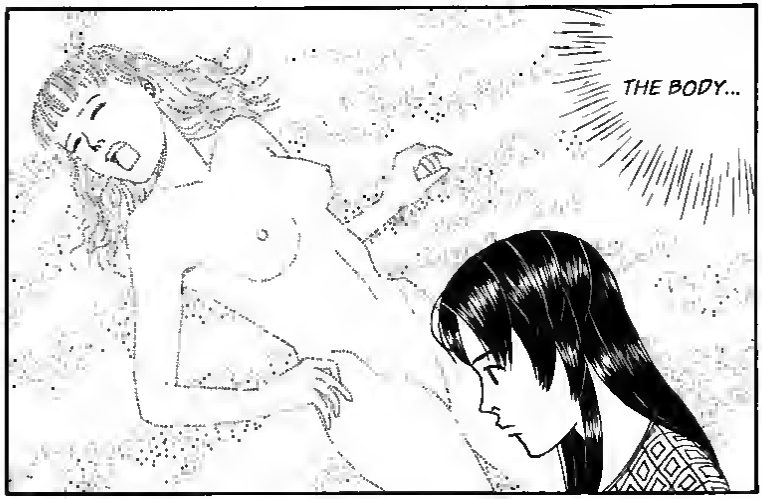

IF I HAVE THIS INSTRUMENT, EVEN I CAN BECOME NUMBER ONE.


That was when I was convinced.
I got to touch one at a music store where I'm on friendly terms with the owner.

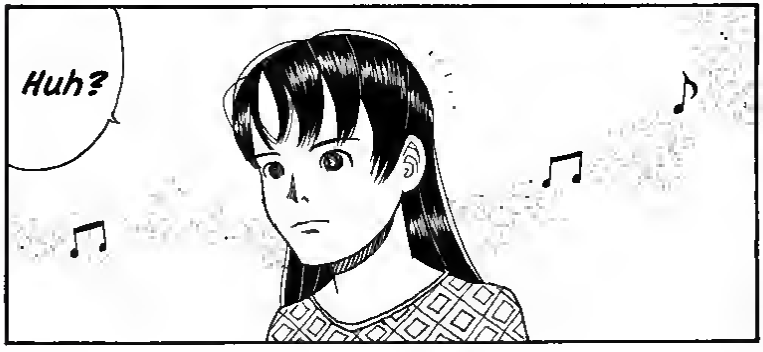

Of course. I'm not opposed to having a generous patron buy it for me.
I need the money.

She's good!
Oh!
The maestro himself is at the piano!
Ohh!
That's Kaori.
Quite nice.
ギリ…
GRIND
Arrgg!


.....
PING
PING
CHATTER
チャラ
CHATTER
チャラ〜
CHATTER
CHATTER
チャン チャラ〜
CHATTER
チャラリ〜


THE BODY...

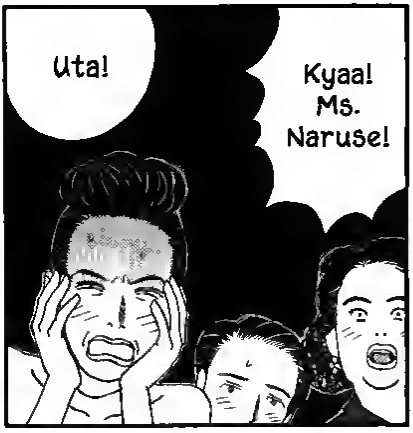
THE BODY ITSELF IS AN INSTRUMENT.


Huh?

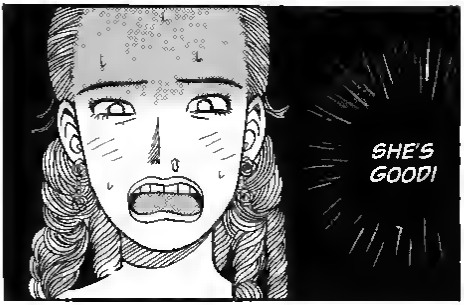
YOU HAVE BEAUTIFUL LEGS.
I'M EXPENSIVE, YOU KNOW.
TO DO WHAT?
HOW ABOUT - TONIGHT?
YOU WON'T REGRET IT.

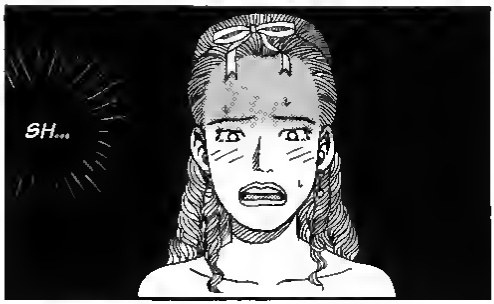
HUH ?!
...isn't that kinda music!
Schubert ...
BAM

What were you thinking ?!
Ughh ...
Mr. Naka-sugi!


Uta!
Kyaa! Ms. Naruse!

I'll accompany you!
OK. Start playin'!

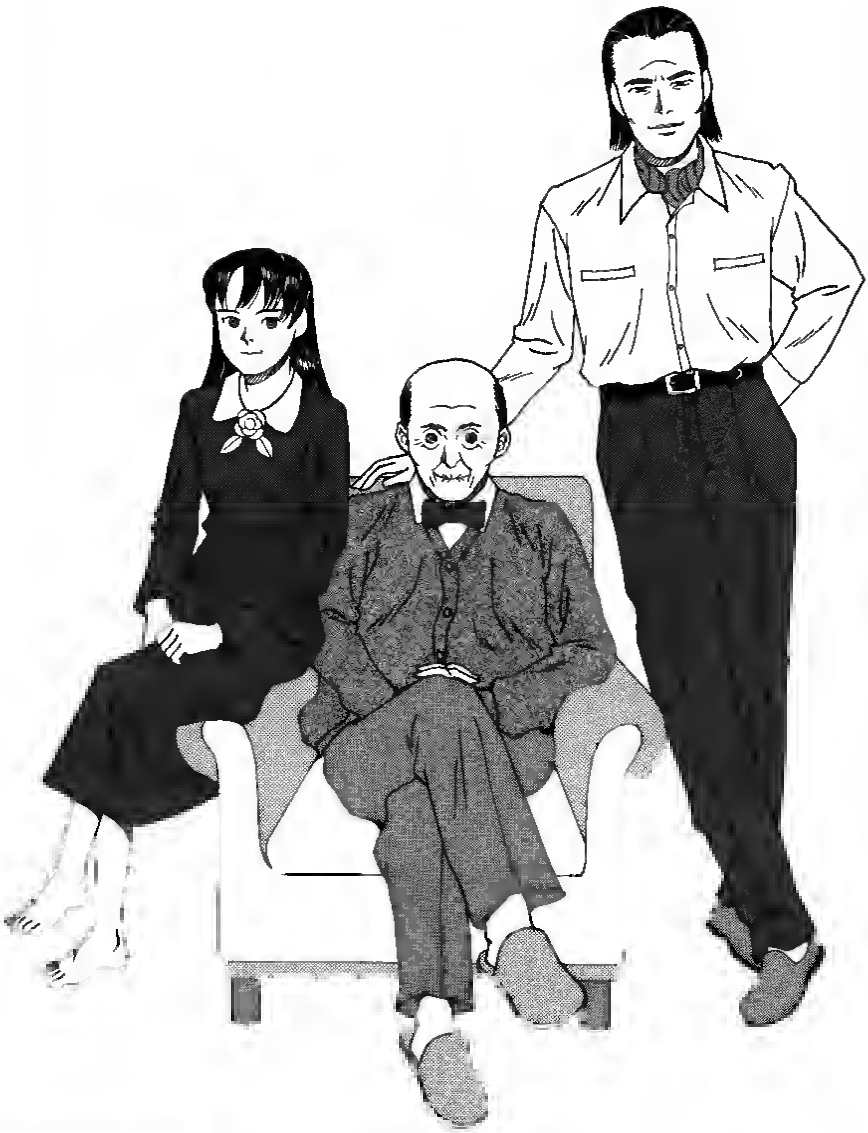

SHE'S GOOD!


SH...

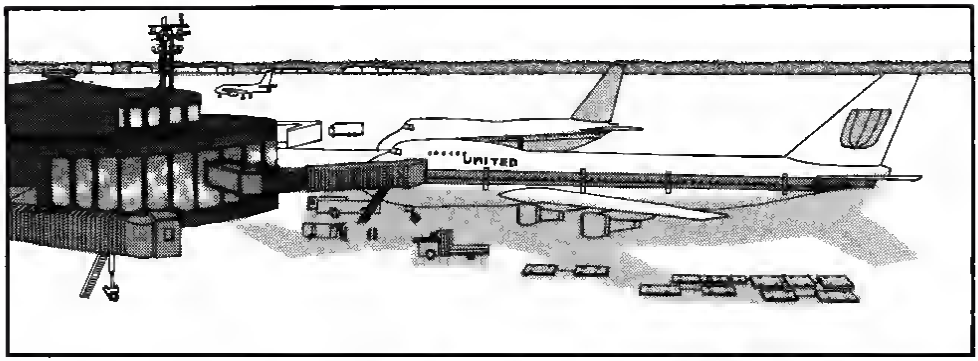
.....

Hurry up and play!

Chapter 32: The Perfect Song • End



Chapter 14 The Hide and Seek Song



JAPAN'S MUSIC INDUSTRY REJOICES IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A LONG-CHERISHED WISH!

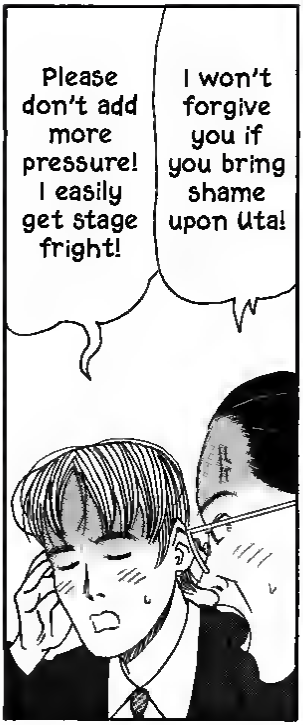
It took fifty years to convince him, since he hates planes.

...HAS ARRIVED!

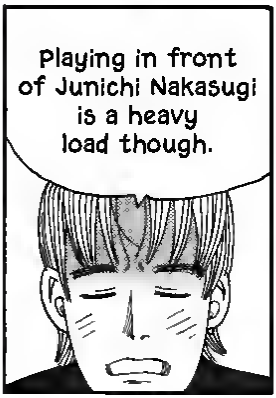
THE LEGENDARY PIANIST, LOBKOWICZ...

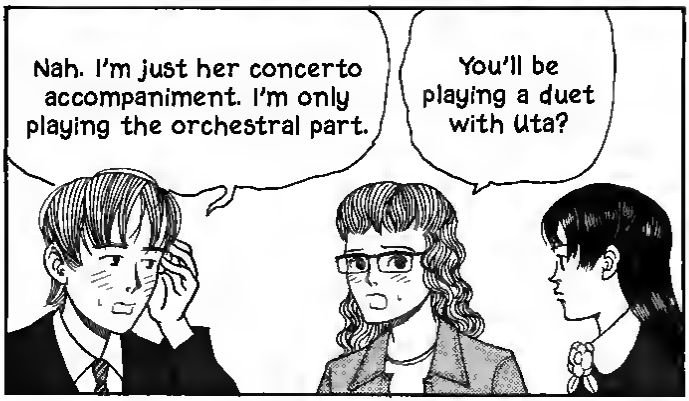
...IT'S COMPLETELY SOLD OUT!

THE PRICE OF A RESERVED SEAT FOR THE SECOND SHOW IS ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS. DESPITE THE HIGH PRICE...

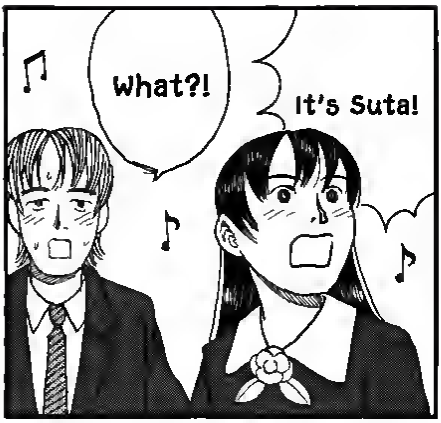

I won't forgive you if you bring shame upon Uta!
Please don't add more pressure! I easily get stage fright!

Starting today, the new legend of Uta Naruse begins!
Lobkowicz is the real deal!


Playing in front of Junichi Nakasugi is a heavy load though.

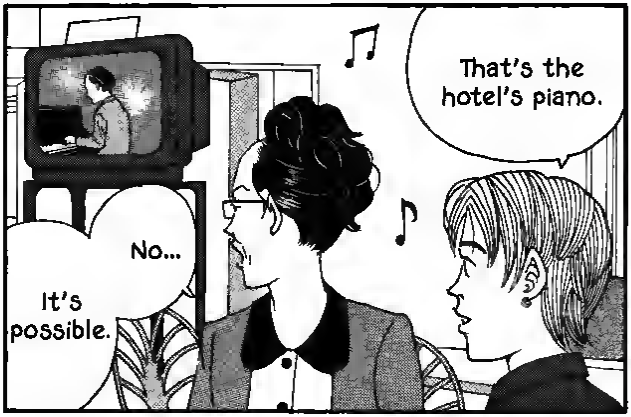

Nah. I'm just her concerto accompaniment. I'm only playing the orchestral part.
You'll be playing a duet with Uta?

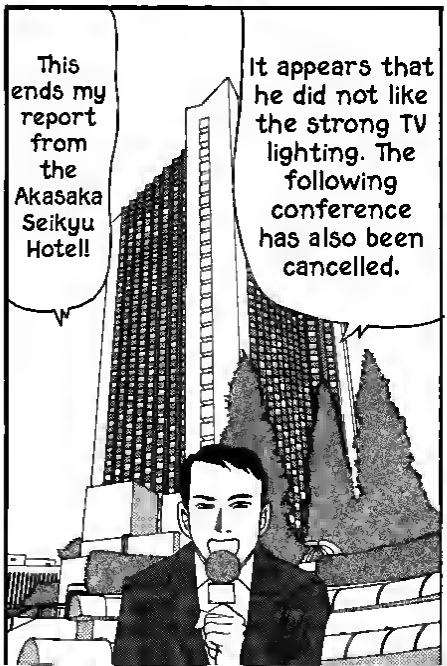
Even the world famous Nakasugi is destroyed.
I don't like 'im! He's just an old fart!
That old man's a maestro?


What?!
It's Suta!

Huh?

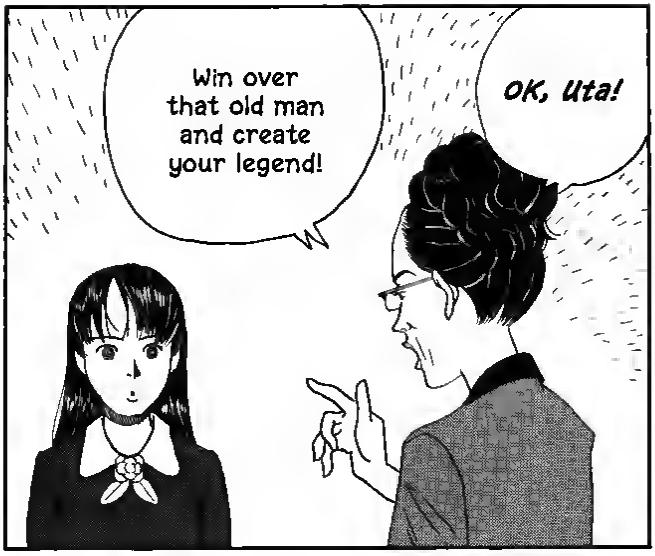
Anybody would want it!
It's that piano we're talking about.


That's the hotel's piano.
No...
It's possible.

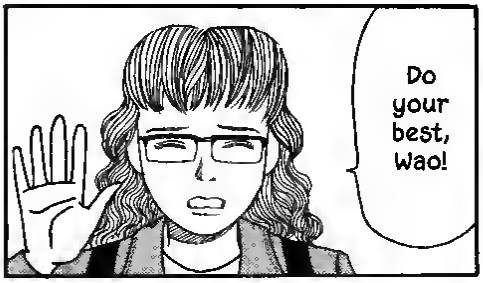

This ends my report from the Akasaka Seikyu Hotel!
It appears that he did not like the strong TV lighting. The following conference has also been cancelled.

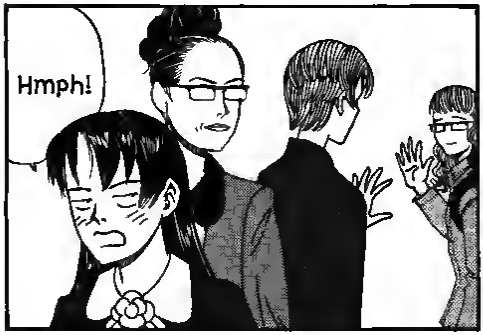
LOBKOWICZ STOPPED PLAYING THE PIANO.

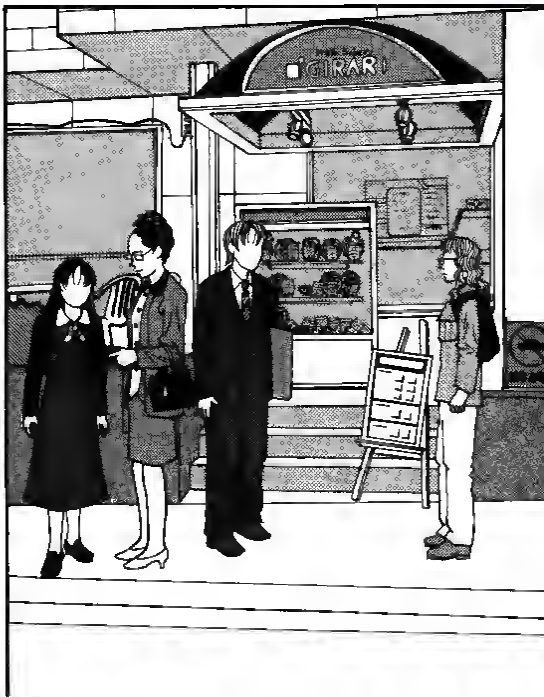
If you do that, we can take back the Steinway!

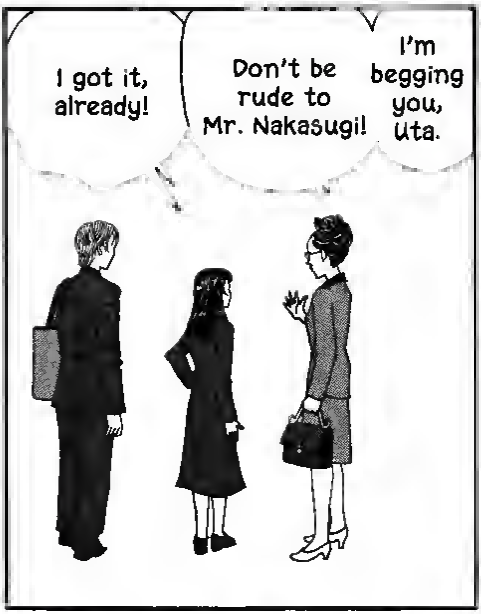

Win over that old man and create your legend!
OK, Uta!

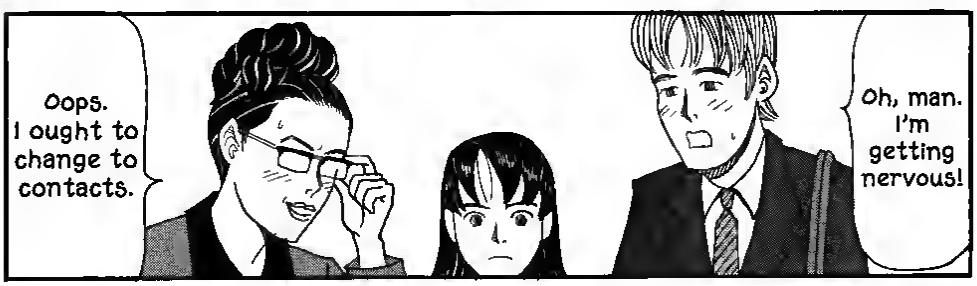
Sorry that it's run-down!
Don't ever touch that grocer's rundown piano again!


Do your best, Wao!


Hmph!


GRAR

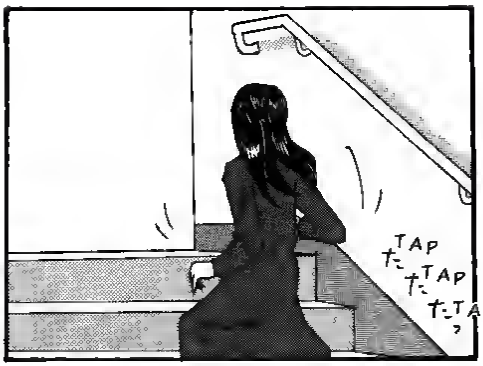

I got it, already!
Don't be rude to Mr. Nakasugi!
I'm begging you, Uta.

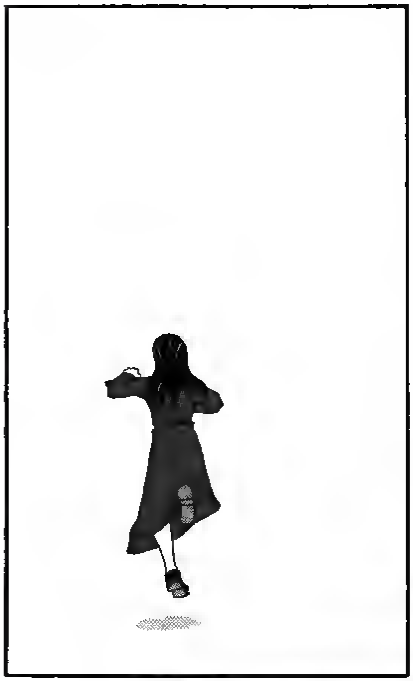

Oops. I ought to change to contacts.
Oh, man. I'm getting nervous!

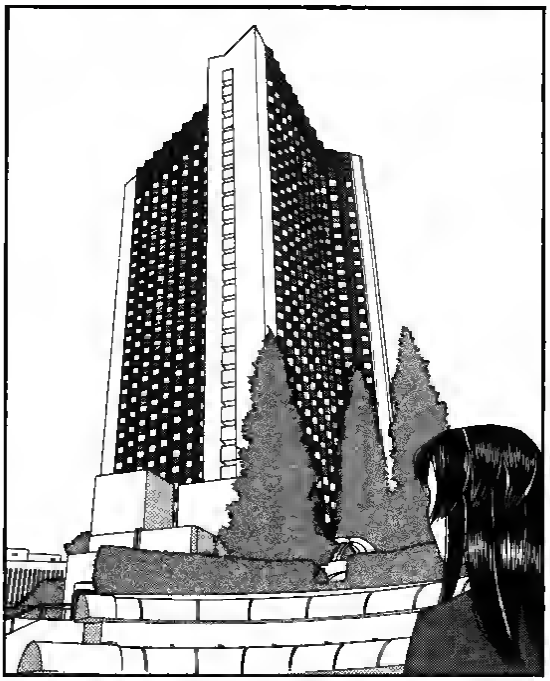
Akasaka Seikyu Hotel
Sannoushita Intersect
International Forum
hibi Akasak
.....

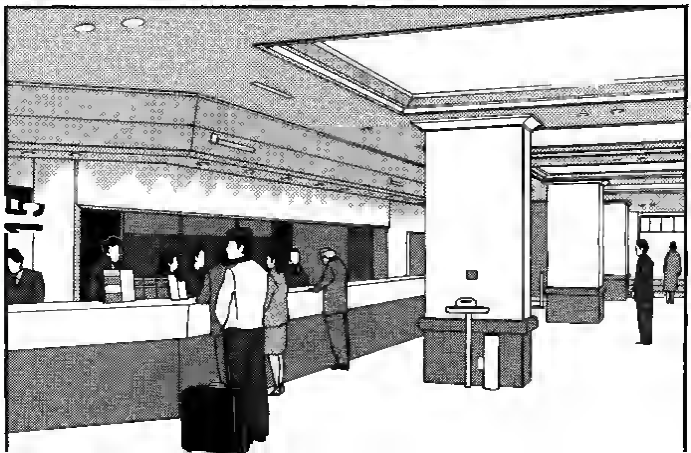
Seikyu Hotel?
Hm?
kasaka Seikyu Ho
Sannoushita Inters
International Forur

Me, too.
I need to go to the bath-room.
Geez!

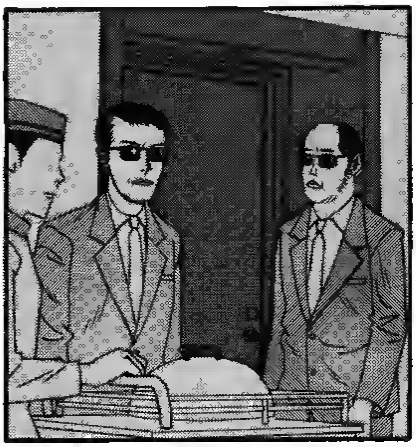

TAP
たTAP
たTAP





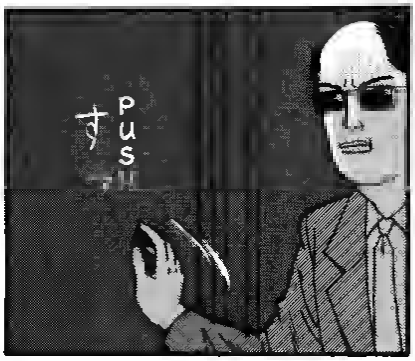


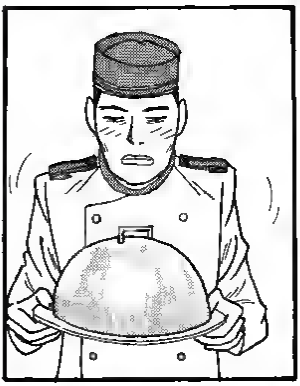
Is that a delivery for Lobkowicz?
He's a pretty selfish old man.
するりと
25
DING
♪

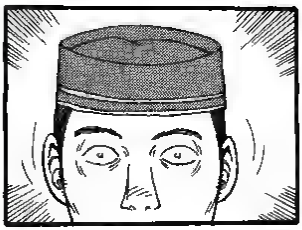


ITE ROOM
589 2590

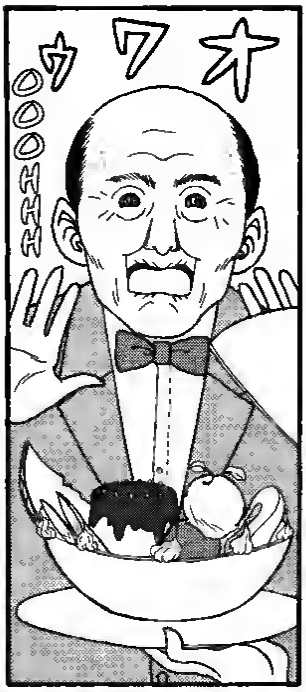
They're guarding him like a politician!
I have brought you your order.

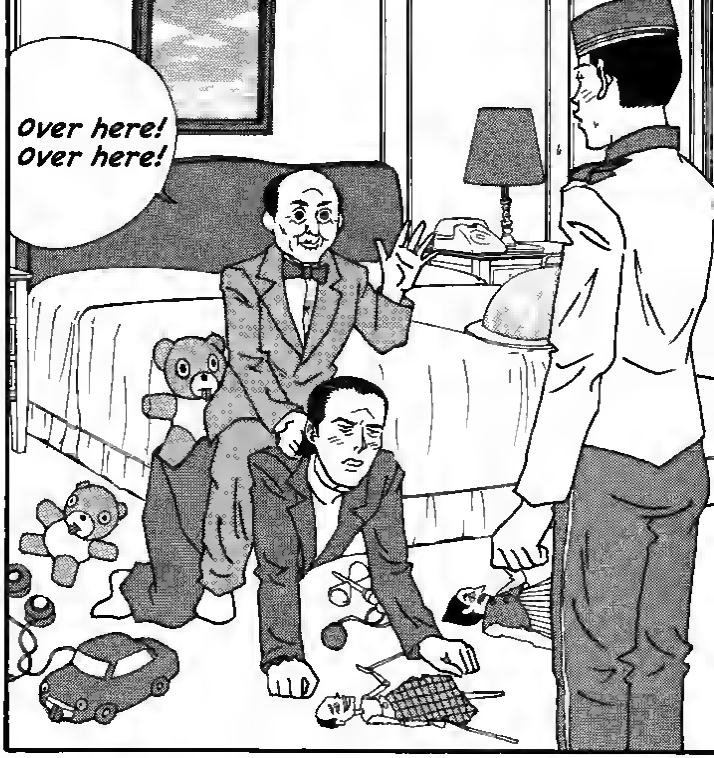

PUS





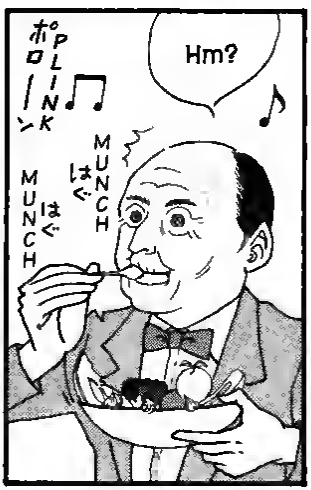
Yes, sir!
Please bring it to the rear room.

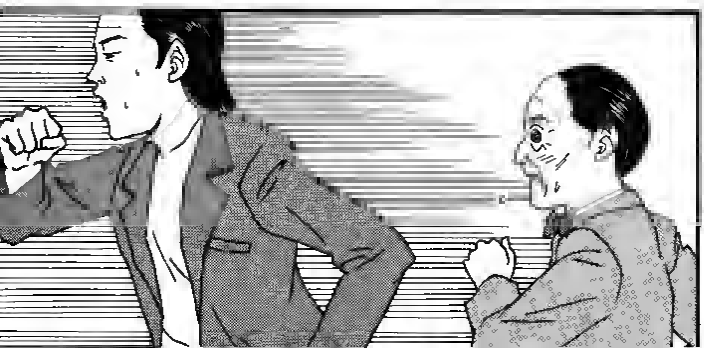

オ
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ


Over here!
Over here!

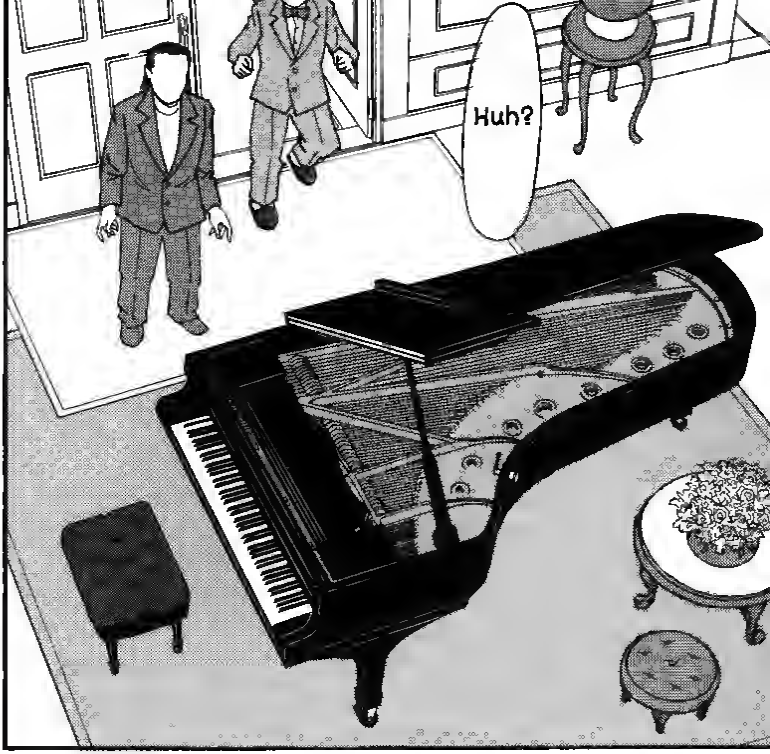
Wanda, dear.
You'll eat the mint-flavored ice cream, won't you?
I can't say no, can I?

Someone's messing with my piano!
Who's that?!


Hm?
ポロリン
PLINK
MUNCH
はぐ
MUNCH
はぐ



CLATTER


Huh?

That surprised me, Hasegawa!
There's a little girl!

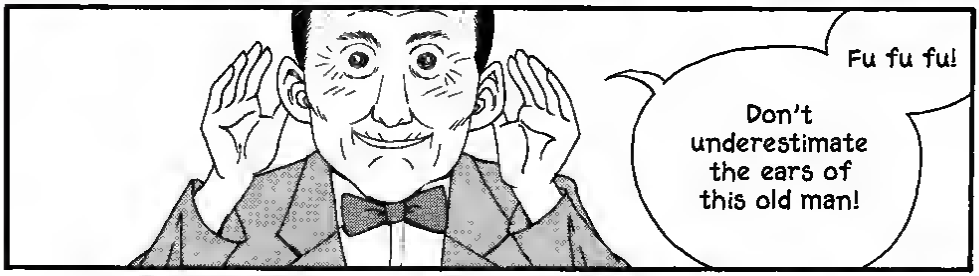
Over there!
SWISH

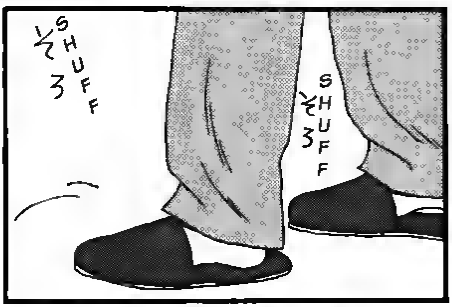
How did you get in?
Damn.

Don't hide and come out!

But... Volodya...
Don't interfere, Hasegawa.

It's hide and seek!
Oh ho ho!


Fu fu fu!
Don't underestimate the ears of this old man!

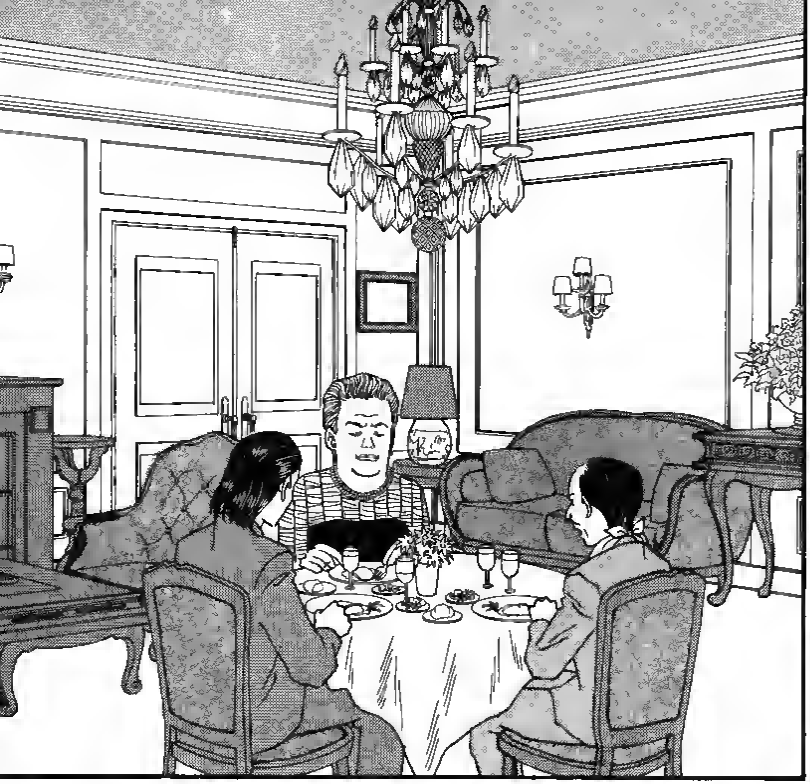

SHUFF
SHUFF

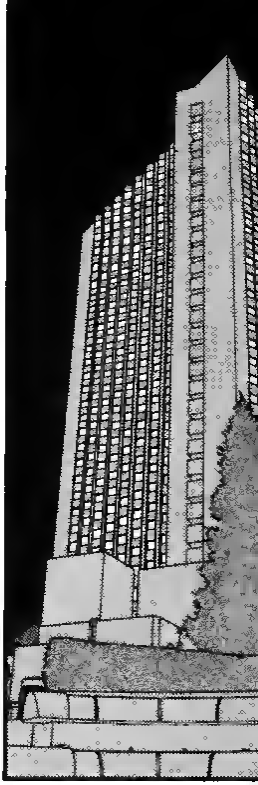
Found you!
Here!
SWISH
SQUIRK
SMIRK

たTAP
たTAP
たTAP
たTAP
たTAP
Gaahhh!
What happened, Volodya?
Wahhh!
What's with all the racket?
Catch that girl!
Mike! Bill!
What is your purpose in coming here?!
You...
What the hell? Whaddaya think yer doin'?
That girl...! That girl...!

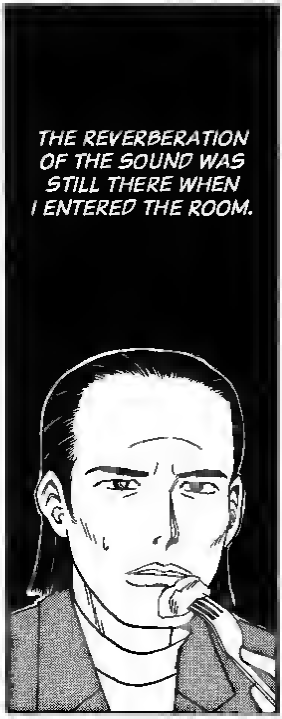
I have been tuning this piano for over ten years.
This Steinway CD 150 was brought from Mr. Lobkowicz's own home.
I thought it was my piano.
So I came to take a look!
Throw her out!
My piano is way better!
I knew that as soon as I played it!
.....
Damn it!

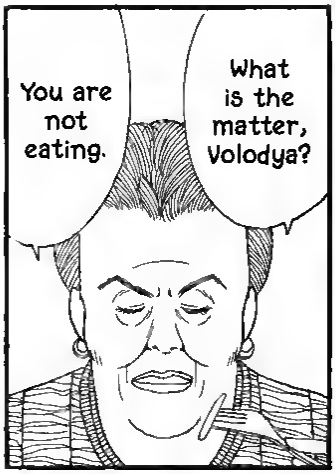
All just to hear this piano!
I came back from Germany this morning.
I'm sorry!
I don't have time for this!
I'm supposed to conduct an orchestra in Osaka tomorrow.
DO YOU WANT TO LOSE OUT ON THIS CHANCE?!
I'M BEGGIN' YOU, UTA. COME BACK!

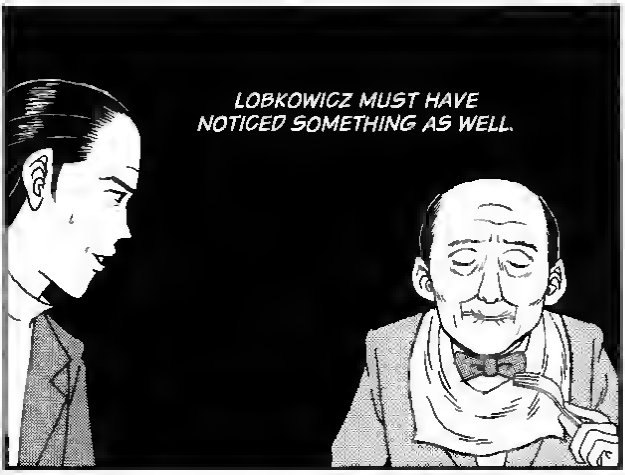




...THAT LITTLE GIRL.
SHE'S NO ORDINARY PERSON...


THE REVERBERATION OF THE SOUND WAS STILL THERE WHEN I ENTERED THE ROOM.

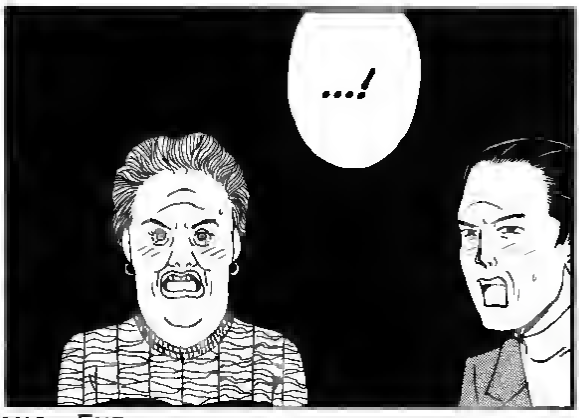

You are not eating.
What is the matter, Volodya?

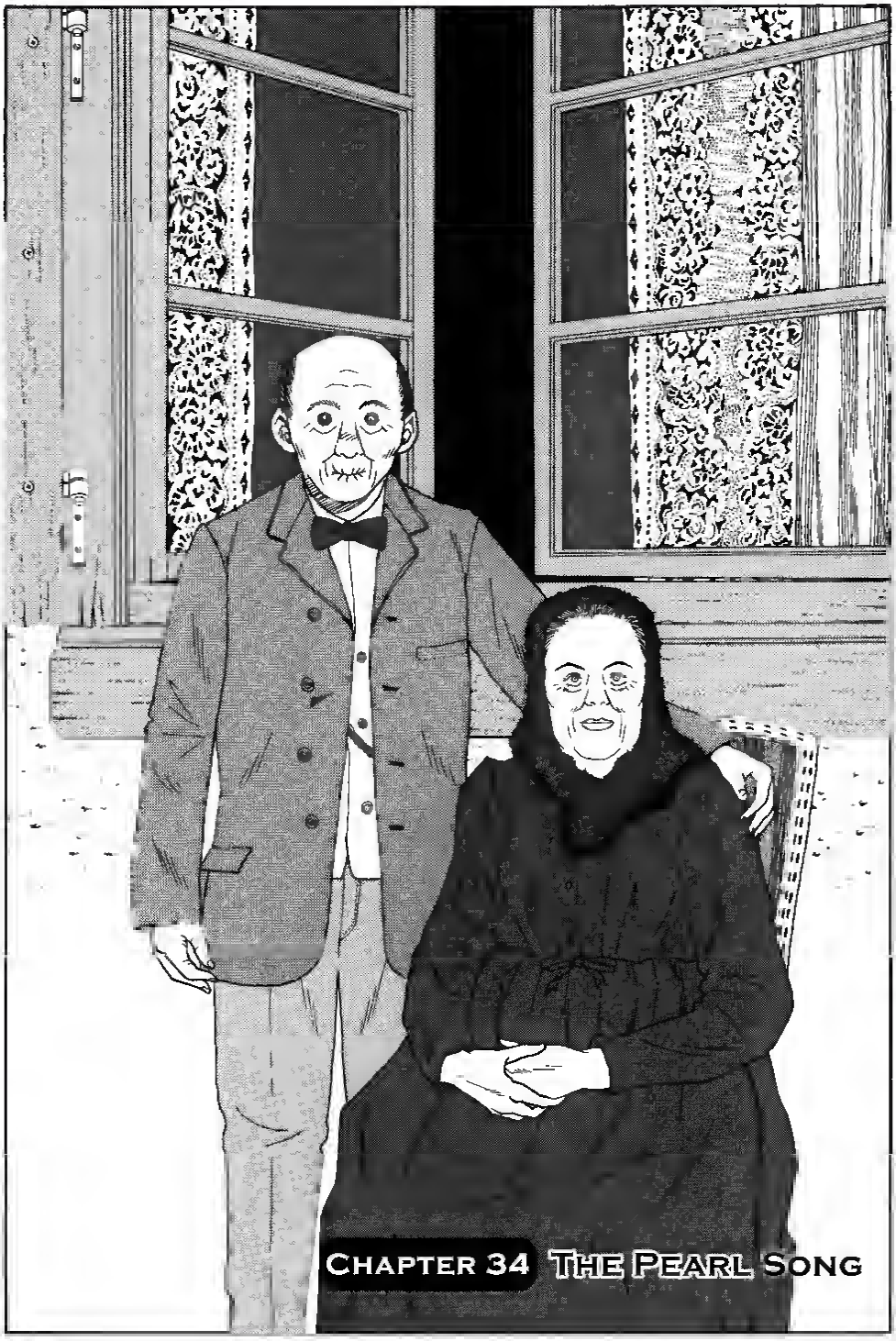

LOBKOWICZ MUST HAVE NOTICED SOMETHING AS WELL.

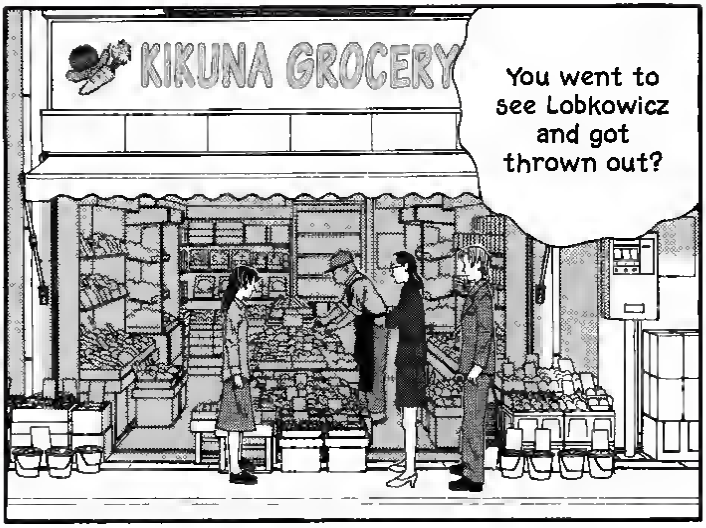
It was that girl's turn to be *it*.

Wanda...
Why did you have that girl thrown out?

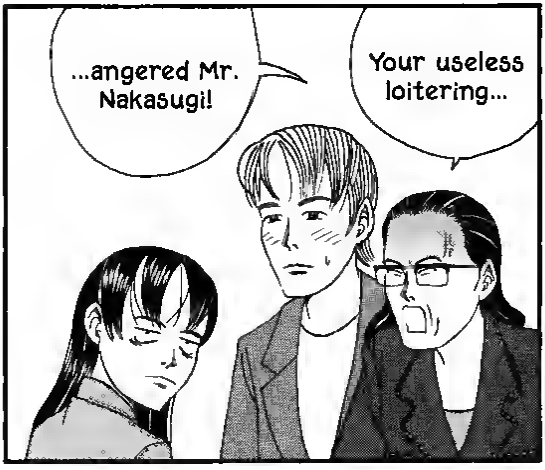
THAT PIANO WASN'T SUITA


...!


Chapter 34 The Pearl Song


KIKUNA GROCERY
You went to see Lobkowicz and got thrown out?

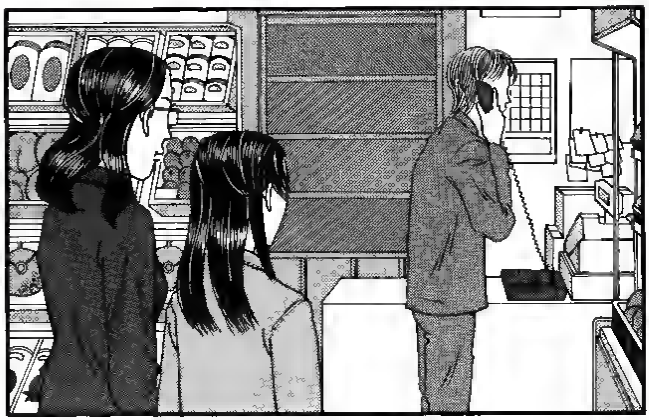
I can't believe this!
KIKUNA GROCERY

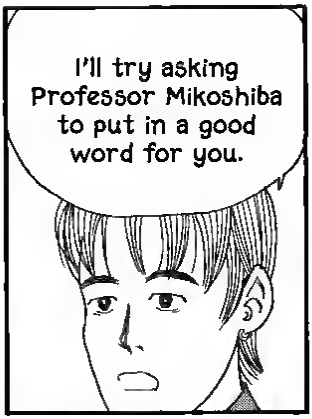

...angered Mr. Nakasugi!
Your useless loitering...

Moreover, Junichi Nakasugi will be the conductor!
He'll be backed by the Dai Nippon Symphony Orchestra!

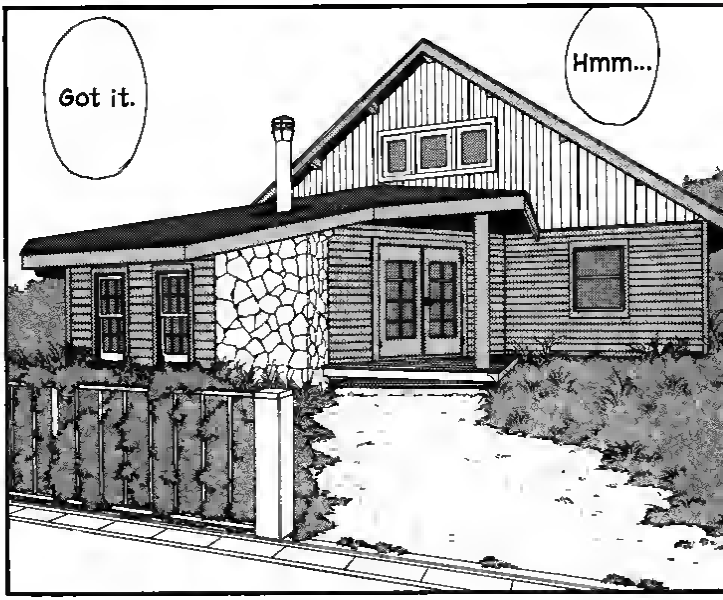
There are also lots of talented people who got buried without getting a chance.
Still...

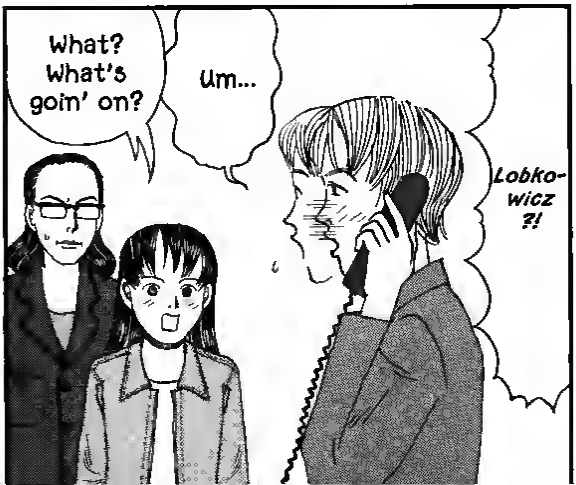
You couldn't help thinking about Lobkowicz's sound, could you?
Searching for the perfect sound...



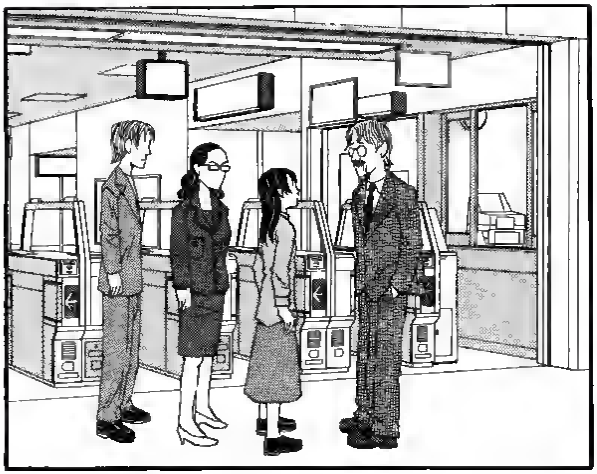

I'll try asking Professor Mikoshiba to put in a good word for you.

By the way...
I'll try giving Nakasugi a call.

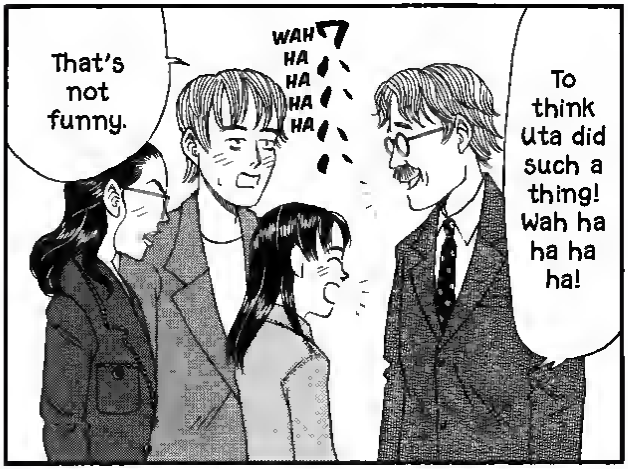

Got it.
Hmm...

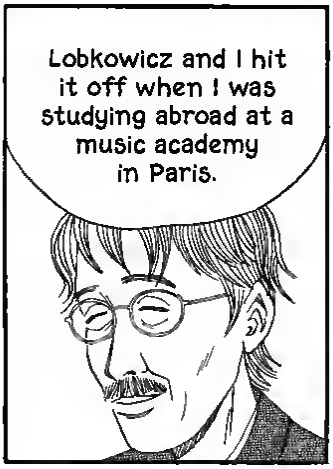

What? What's goin' on?
Um...
Lobko-wicz ?!

Want to go together?
I'll be visiting Lobkowicz today.

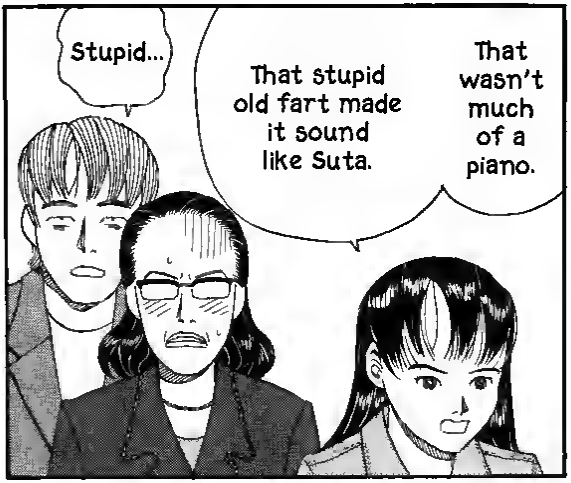


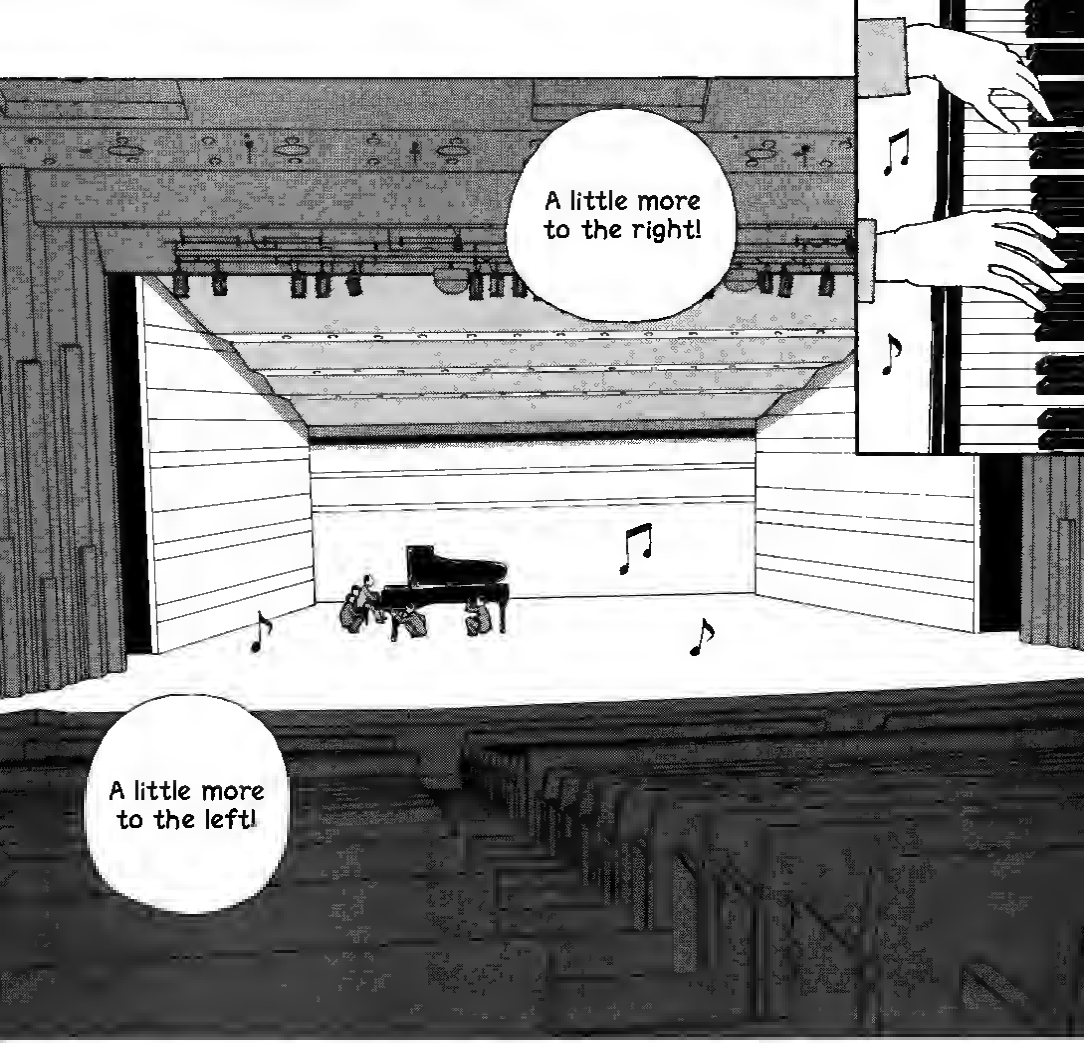
千川駅
SENKAWA
STATION

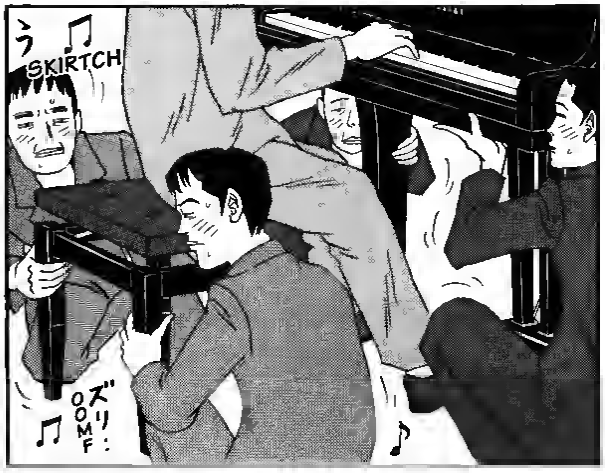

That's not funny.
WAH HA HA HA HA
To think Uta did such a thing! Wah ha ha ha ha!


Lobkowicz and I hit it off when I was studying abroad at a music academy in Paris.

...with my own ears.
I wanted to confirm it...


Stupid...
That stupid old fart made it sound like Suta.
That wasn't much of a piano.


A little more to the right!
A little more to the left!


SKIRTCH
ズリ
OMF

Ten centimeters forward!

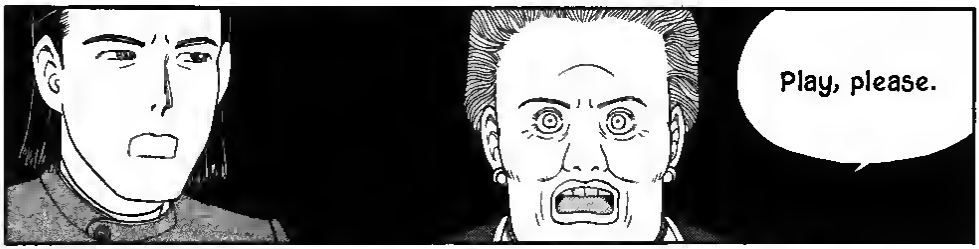
They're looking for the place where the piano sounds best.
What're they doin'?
Play in the center of the stage!
The sound will change anyway when the audience enters.
How is the sound, Wanda?
ポーン PING
ポーン PING
If you break that piano, I won't buy you a new one!
Volodya!
No!
I'll play here!
ガーン BANG
ガーン BANG
ガーン
GRRR

Lush!
I thought you had already kicked the bucket!
I'm still alive and kickin'!
Oh!
Hello.
We promised to go to Disneyland.
Volodya felt like coming because you were here.
No.
My treasure.
This is my secret weapon.
!
That girl!
HMPH

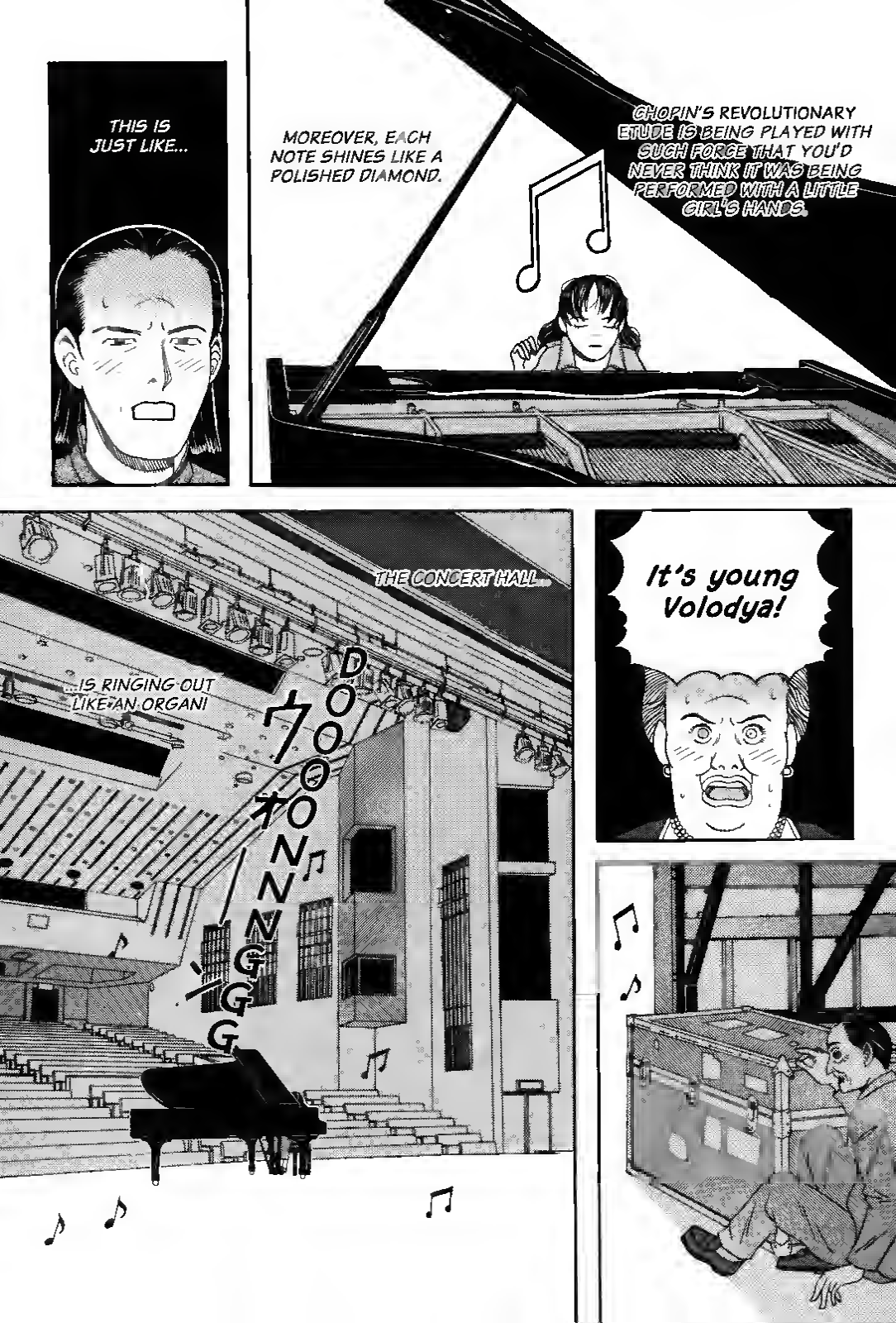
He saw my face and ran.
Volo-dya...
Oh?
!
He wants to continue playing hide and seek with you.
That's not it.
He...
ひよい
HOP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP

Let her.

Stop!
You there!
FWUMP
ストン


Play, please.

No matter where you put it, it's fine as long the sound reverberates throughout every corner the same way.


THIS IS JUST LIKE...
MOREOVER, EACH NOTE SHINES LIKE A POLISHED DIAMOND.
CHOPIN'S REVOLUTIONARY ETUDE IS BEING PLAYED WITH SUCH FORCE THAT YOU'D NEVER THINK IT WAS BEING PERFORMED WITH A LITTLE GIRL'S HANDS.
THE CONCERT HALL...
...IS RINGING OUT LIKE AN ORGAN!
DOOOOONNNGGG
It's young Volodya!

...ARE GOING BERSERK!
...OF THE REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS...
THE SPIRITS...
Eek!

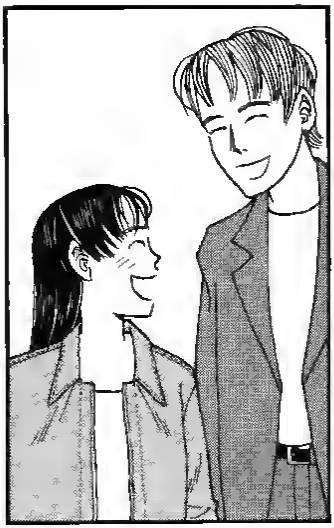
Wanda!
Wanda!
He remembers the time he was persecuted as a Jew.
Volodya is afraid of songs concerning war.

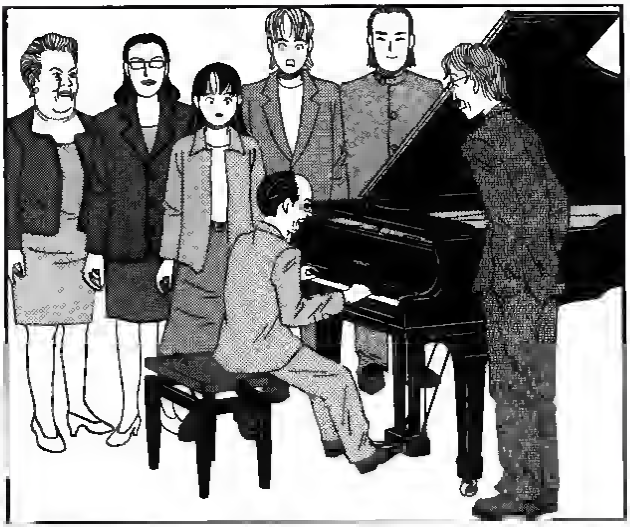
Crybaby! Caterpillar! Fold 'im and throw 'im away!
Ha! Found ya!
!
Volodya!
Don't get excited!
Darn you!
SWAY
HOWEVER, HE CANNOT HIDE HIS PHYSICAL DECLINE NOW.
IF HE WERE YOUNG, HE'D BE ABLE TO COMPETE EQUALLY.

But at Lobkowicz's hands...
It's a simple piece that even beginners can play.
...from Schumann's Scenes from Childhood.
Dreaming...
...BUT PRECIOUS PEARL.
IT'S A CLOUDY...
...HE GIVES IT LIGHT!

HE IDLY SCRAPES AGAINST THE SPACES OF THE KEYBOARD...
EVEN THOUGH HIS FINGERS CANNOT MOVE AROUND LIKE THEY USED TO...
...LOBKOWICZ HAS THAT TOUCH.
...Suta's sound!
That's...
...MOVING AS IF HE WEREN'T TOUCHING THE KEYBOARD AT ALL!
TEARY

Why you!
Now, now.
Ha! You cried! You cried!
Crybaby!
Why don't you two make up...
...with your favorite cakes?
Volodya!
It's been ages!
Miko-shiba!
AHAHAHAHAHA





...for Uta Naruse's abilities.
Yes. I will take responsibility ...

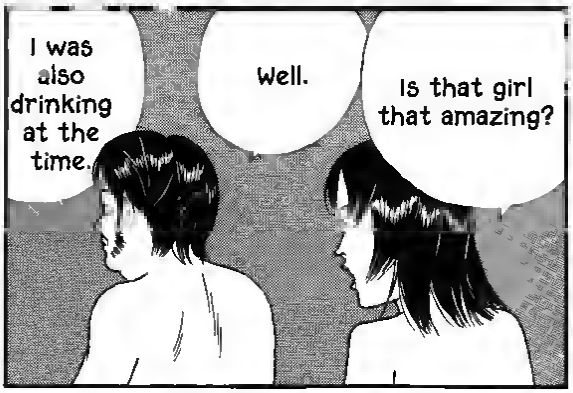
I guarantee it.
She'll be ready.

...by the practice day with the orchestra?
Then, can you guarantee that she'll be ready...

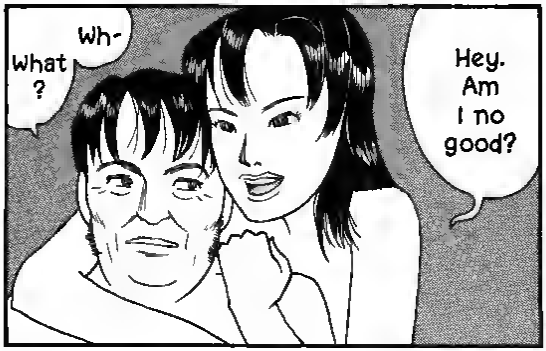
Zilch!
Does that guy have any influence?

Behind that stage mom was Professor Lush.
Well, well.
Professor Mikoshiba?

You're always like that.
Pro-fessor, you...
Geez!


I was also drinking at the time.
Well.
Is that girl that amazing?

Can't I be...
...the soloist for that con-certo?


Wh-
What?
Hey. Am I no good?